METRO / A21

BIR accuses actor Cesar Montano of violating tax laws

BUSINESS / B1

Exports up 13% to $3.96B in July; growth lower than the 20.6% posted in June

NEWS / A2

No P8-B pork for GMA, says Drilon

WORLD / A24

Gunmen attack US Embassy in Syria; 4 killed

Liars, cheats, killers have clean hands

LIARS, CHEATS, PHILANderers and murderers are not known for their personal hygiene, but there no one has eluded their showering habits.

They may scrub extra hard after a con job, use

LIARS A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, September 13, 2006 ++ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 277 P18 www.inq7.net

More evidence sought to back Lipa apparition

By Jerome Aning

LIPA ARCHBISHOP RAMON ARGUELLES IS looking at new evidence to support the claims of an apparition by the Virgin Mary to a Carmelite nun in 1948.

Arguelles said that with the help of some individuals, he had been collating new testimonies and documents about the apparition and reha-

MORE EVIDENCE A3

Senate arrests chair of PCGG

Chamber warns other no-shows at its hearings

By Alcuin Papa and TJ Burgonio

AFTER REPEATED REBUFFS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, SOME even below Cabinet rank, the Senate yesterday finally showed its clout by arresting the head of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) who had snubbed its inquiry into the alleged misuse of funds of sequestered companies.

The soft-spoken PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio readily went with the Senate security officers who presented him with an arrest warrant, but his blood pressure shot up to 160/100 as soon as he arrived at the Senate building, where he was to be indefinitely detained.

Four other PCGG commissioners who were also targets of the Senate crackdown—Ricardo Abcede, Nicasio Conti, Tereso Javier and Narciso Mario—avoided arrest because they were not in their offices when the Senate arresting team arrived.

Altogether, the Senate ordered the arrest of 10 people.

Others named in the warrant were five executives of Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC), one of the companies the government had sequestered in its campaign against firms supposedly linked to late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his business associates.

The Senate sergeant at arms vowed to arrest the other PCGG commissioners even in their own homes.

The Senate, however, immediately collided with Malacañang.

In a petition, Solicitor General Antonio Eduardo Nachura and the PCGG asked the

SENATE ARRESTS A14

PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio is mobbed by media after he was ordered arrested by the Senate for snubbing its inquiry into the alleged misuse of funds of sequestered companies.

Commission opens probe of killings

THE COMMISSION FORMED BY President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate extrajudicial killings and disappearances yesterday started questioning senior military officers and police officials.

Commission chair Jose Melo, in remarks before the closed-door sessions, pleaded for patience, and said his panel had the power to compel government officials to attend its hearings.

"While our powers are limited to making recommendations, we are under the Office of the President so the respondents cannot use Executive Order No. 464 or Memorandum Circular No. 108 as excuses for snubbing hearings," said Melo, 74, a retired Supreme Court justice.

Since September 2005, Ms Arroyo and her enemies in the two houses of Congress have clashed over the use of two presidential orders preventing senior government officials from attending hearings into allegations of election fraud, corruption and other issues.

Melo's panel questioned Philip-

COMMISSION A4

THE FIVE-MEMBER Melo Commission huddles down to work. From left: Bishop Pueblos, UP Regent Gonzalez, former SC justice Melo, Chief State Prosecutor Zarie and NBI Director Mamaril. JOE AUSEJO

Names of the lost echo across Ground Zero

NEW YORK—CLUTCHING PHOtos to their hearts and blowing kisses to the sky marked loved ones of Sept. 11 victims recited a 3 1/2-hour litany of the lost, the names echoing across an expanse still largely barren five years after terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center.

At the Pentagon and on a wind-swept Pennsylvania field, and in quiet moments on airport security lines, at churches or by dinner tables, Americans paused to reflect on the worst terrorist act on US soil.

The centerpiece of the commemorations was the mostly baritone 6.4 hrs-reponse at Ground Zero, where four moments of silence were observed to mark the precise times jetliners crashed into the twin towers and the skyscrapers crumbled to the ground.

The achingly familiar task of reading the names of the 2,749 Trade Center victims fell this year to their husbands, wives and partners, who personalized the roll call with heartbreaking tributes to the loves of their lives.

"If I could build a staircase to heaven, I would, just so I could quickly run up there to have you back in my arms," said Carmen Suastez, wife of city police officer Ramon Suastez.

And this from Linda Litto, who lost husband Vincent Litto: "So I said 31 years ago tomorrow, I will love you and honor you all the days of our life. Happy anniversary, my love."

On a crisp, sunny day not unlike the morning of the attacks, family members descended into the pit 21 stories below ground where the towers had stood.

NAMES A7

Second witness 'proved the case for us'

LANCE CPL. Justin Michael Bamberger, a close friend of "Nicole," takes the witness stand, in this artist's sketch.

By Tarra V. Quismundo

WHEN THE SECOND DEFENSE witness took the stand, he "proved the case for us," the prosecution in the Subic rape case said yesterday.

Senior State Prosecutor Emilio de los Santos, head of the five-member government panel prosecuting the case filed by "Nicole," a Filipina woman, against four US Marines, said Lance Cpl. Justin Michael Bamberger ended up testifying in the prosecution's favor when he gave an account of the complainant's "spontaneous reporting" of the alleged rape.

On the stand, Bamberger, a close friend of Nicole's, said the complainant had at first denied "stupid rumors" that she was the woman who was raped by his fellow US Marines, but admitted to it eight hours later.

"We are very happy with the testimony. The defense proved the case for us, that she was indeed raped. The testimony [showed] that there was immediate reporting that she was raped. Maybe that's the style of the victims—to help to prosecute," De

SECOND A13

Now, it's Nicole's word against Smith's

By Veit Contreras

WITH LANCE CPL. DANIEL Smith mortifying in his defense on Monday, two starkly contrasting versions of what happened on the night of Nov. 1, 2005, at the Subic Bay Freeport have finally entered court records.

On the one hand is the fragmented memory of "Nicole" of her alleged rape, but with eyewitness accounts saying that she appeared inebriated before and after the incident. On the other is Smith's vivid yet still uncontroverted narration of how she purportedly consented to have sex in the back seat of a moving van.

The US Marine's testimony not only dented the rape but cast doubt on the prosecution's claim that Nicole had been too drunk to have cooperated in the act. He said she even helped him put on a condom, and was lucid enough to carry on a conversation.

NOW, IT'S A13

Guyito finds home in northern Luzon

By the Inquirer Bureaus

LINGAYEN CITY—IT WAS RAINING HARD when Guyito arrived at its new home at the Dagupan City National High School—a fitting welcome for the country's "beast of burden" that can endure the worst of calamities.

Despite the rain, the fiberglass sculpture of the Inquirer's carabao mascot received a warm welcome from the students, teachers and officials of the DCNHS when it was turned over to the school on Aug. 17.

The school was one of 20 recipients of the Inquirer mascot painted by the country's top artists to capture the theme of the newspaper's 20th anniversary, "The Power of Knowing."

Sculptor Jean Sajid Imao created the 28 fiberglass sculptures.

DCNHS named the Guyito after one of its students, Jen-Jen Estrada, garnered a spot among the top 20 winners of the National Quiz Bee.

Inquirer associate editor Abelardo Ilumsday and corporate relations head Cosmic Kalagayan turned over the glass-encased Guyito, painted by Renato Parreño, to school officials.

DCNHS principal Teodora Nuñez said the school placed Guyito in the lobby of its administration building so the students would always see it and take pride in their achievement.

Parreño's Guyito is a hybrid beast he calls "Surfbuw"—a compound of surfmarok, the mythical bird of Maranao art, and the carabao. The mascot has a

GUYITO A5

STUDENTS of Baguio's Pines City National High School welcome their Guyito, the INQUIRER carabao mascot painted by artist Renato Bolac.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Second FRONTPAGE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

A2

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Rainbow clouds will accompany mostly cloudy skies with scattered showers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with moderate winds. (PAGASA) Weather Bureau

No P8-B 'pork' for GMA – Drilon

House budget debate a walk in the park

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE HOUSE DELIBERATIONS ON THE proposed P1.1 trillion budget for 2007 are a walk in the park for officials of government and opposition lawmakers.

Because of the noticeable absence of the members of the opposition bloc from the daily budget deliberations, the committee on appropriations is "very ahead of schedule" for the first time since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001, according to committee chair by allnap Representative Rolando Andaya Jr.

"We've never attained scholastic excellence of the congressmen's desire to deliberate the substantive proceedings, and take the scrutiny of the budget to its privacy," said Rolando.

Final reading and approval of the budget could come days before the congressional break in October, he said.

"The Senate will have the full month of November to act on it. We can have a new budget before the year ends," Rolando added.

Deputy Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said the minority had decided against attending the committee budget deliberations which he considered to be a waste of time because of Executive Order 464 and Memorandum Circular No. 108 issued by Malacañang to require the appearance of executive branch officials before congressional hearings.

Remulla said it was the position of House Minority Leader Francis Escudero not to take part in the committee deliberations to avoid unnecessary delay in the measure now again delaying the approval of the budget.

"Why not just finish the process? What are we mad to a new budget because 2007 is an election year," he said.

Yesterday, it took less than two hours for the committee to approve the proposed budgets of the Department of Justice (P9.6 billion) and Interior and Local Government (P82 billion).

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SEN. FRANKLIN DRILON YESTERDAY said he was pleasantly surprised that the P8 billion Kalayaan and Kilos Asenso funds, which he claims to be presidential pork barrel, did not appear in the proposed P1.1 trillion national budget for 2007.

"That removes a major source of disagreement between the Senate and Malacañang, so it was in the 2006 budget," said Drilon, who chairs the Senate finance committee.

The Senate cut the administration's proposed P1 trillion budget for 2006 by 164 billion, including the entire 36 billion Kalayaan and Kilos Asenso funds, which led to an impasse with the House and Malacañang. This resulted in a failure to approve the 2006 budget forcing government to use a rolled-over 2005 budget.

Where Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. appeared before the Senate yesterday and appealed for reopening, Drilon said that it would be easier for the Senate to approve the 2007 budget if it did not contain the P8 billion allocation that senators hated was President Macapagal-Arroyo's pork barrel.

But it seems the P8 billion did not really disappear.

Andaya said the allocation was moved to "dispersal" to various local government projects instead of being reflected as a lump sum appropriation. He said the funds were intended for projects in different barangays and localities nationwide.

Drilon said the Senate would scrutinize the projects, if the allocation has been dispersed as it would be easier to monitor, he said.

The President and her economic managers—Andaya, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Socio-Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri—have proposed a P1.126 trillion budget for 2007.

Andaya said they would be pursuing a separate P18.3 billion budget proposal for the Salary Standardization Law 3, to standardize the salaries of government employees.

Andaya said one of the major differences was the P8.8 billion for the Commission on Elections (Comelec) being an election year. The amount is to be spent for the automated and local elections in May and the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan polls in October.

Asked if there was any appropriation for a plebiscite on Charter change, Andaya said "not yet."

But he said if the Supreme Court were to decide in favor of a people's initiative, the Comelec budget can be realigned to fund such a plebiscite.

The multi-sectoral Ejercito ng Bayan and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines have petitioned the Comelec to schedule a plebiscite after they gathered more than nine million signatures supporting a people's initiative to change the Constitution.

The Comelec dismissed the petition, citing a Supreme Court decision saying there was still no enabling law for a people's initiative. But the proponents have appealed to the high court's en banc.

If the House sticks to the schedule of the budget hearings, it should be able to submit the approved bill to the Senate by mid-November and give the Senate enough time to pass it before the end of the session starting on October.

Andaya said he expects the House to approve the budget this month's time.

Naia3 needs $8M, 8 mos. more

GMA discusses Naia3 row with German leader

BRUSSELS (PIA POOL)—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has begun marketing Philippine trade with Germany that have been frayed over the reallocation of the biggest German investment in the country, the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 (Naia 3).

In a pooled interview with reporters covering her trip here, President Arroyo spoke about her brief chat with German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the sidelines of the council in concluded Feb Asia-Europe Meeting in Helsinki, Finland.

"This airport is a vital national asset that must be turned at least to productive use and this is what I discussed with Chancellor Merkel," she said.

with the Miss A another hurdle

According to Neri, the airlines' "technical comfort" would be the actual transfer of ownership to the airport facility to the tenant.

"That could happen only when [our economic] is paid and that will take time," Neri said.

But he said the Miss has tried to address the airlines' concerns by obtaining an option to purchase the Department of Justice (DOJ) land which told the Miss can issue lease contracts upon payment of the P3 billion to Pnaia.

"With that (DOJ opinion), we can already issued contracts," Neri said.

Neri said that the airlines themselves would need at least six months to put up their offices at the Naia 3.

He said the Miss was now in final negotiations with On Japanese-based Takenaka Corp., the main contractor for the facility.

Takenaka stopped all construction work at the terminal after the government evicted the contractor of Naia 3 and moved to expropriate the facility. Marcos demanded a payment of P221 million for the facility.

Both the executive and congressional depots reaching the courts, it left open the question of who had the responsibility to pay the contractor. Alilio Otanes and Rina T. Obenades

Mayon folk getting ready to go home

LEGAZPI CITY—AFTER OVER A month of taking shelter in an evacuation center at the San Roque Elementary School, Brgy. to Mercedilla, 49, a weaver and farmer from Banogao Malinao, a village in the foothills of Mayon volcano since On Philippine hatchets of Mihondrapy and Seismology (Phivolcs) had already lowered Mt. Mayon's alert status to level three late Monday afternoon.

More than 50,000 displaced villagers, who had to rely on government relief assistance and endure sleeping in crowded shelters, would not evacuate their evacuation when told of the news.

Mercedilla said: "The first thing I will do when my family goes back home is to clear our home which we have not seen for a long time. I will plant new crops again since the ash fallen covered our 'palayan' and 'ripino' which are now ready to harvest."

Aside from planting vegetables and weaving, Mercedilla also earns at livestock just like most of the villagers in Barangay Banogao that is 2.5km. away from the 2,462-meter volcano.

Geraldine Villas, 49, of the same village, also said she was unable to harvest anything because of the eruption.

"Our rice variety crashed which left us empty-handed but despite the loss we should be hoping soon so we could earn some when we create fusion," she said.

There were around 4,000 farmers in Barangay Banogao, Malinao Southside, and the Provincial Agricultural Services. *Ephraim Agullo, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Nat'l Artist moved to Libingan

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS after his death, the remains of National Artist Carlos Francisco de Leon were reinterred yesterday at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, joining the country's heroes in their final resting place.

De Leon, a talented and prolific director, died on Jan. 15, 1981, at the age of 68. The following year, then President Ferdinand Marcos conferred the National Artist Award for Film on him posthumously.

Under Executive Order No. 236 promulgated by President Macapagal-Arroyo, National Artists are entitled to a state funeral and to be buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Yesterday, incidentally, would have been De Leon's 93rd birthday.

De Leon directed other actors now considered cinematic classics, among them, "Ifuna," "Dyesebel," "Pedro Penduko," "Kuntay ni Cupid," "Badjao sa Mga Buwaya," "The Mistress Pacilla Story," "Filipino" and "Sisa (scene)." *Jerome Aning*

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DATE	SUBJECT	MCLE CREDIT HOURS	LECTURERS
25 Sept Monday	Revised Corporation Code and Trust Fund Code of Sugar Regulations (MCLE Compliance Required)	3 hrs. (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)	Justice Antonio T. Carpio (ret.)
	Trial Techniques in Examining Witnesses and Making Proper Objections (For first year Trial Judges)	3 hrs. (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)	Hon. Teresita Jacinto F. Castañeda (ret.)
26 Sept Tuesday	Effective Legal Writing (MCLE Compliance & Oral Advocacy)	3 hrs. (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)	Atty. Kathryn Laguna
	Court Management and Court Personnel Relations (CCP)	3 hrs. (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)	Hon. Alfredo F. Tadeo
	Introduction and Overview of the Constitution (MCLE Compliance Required)	3 hrs. (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)	Justice Antonio T. Carpio (ret.)
27 Sept Wednesday	Civil, Criminal and Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers (Legal Ethics)	3 hrs. (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)	Justice Josue L. Bellosillo
	Juvenile Justice in Relation to Law and its Effect (MCLE Compliance Required)	3 hrs. (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)	Judge Nimfa Cuevas Vilches
28 Sept Thursday	Modern Trade Law and Taxation (Legal Writing & Oral Advocacy)	3 hrs. (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)	Prof. Agnes C. Fernando
	Foreign Investments, International Law (Legal Writing & Oral Advocacy)	3 hrs. (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)	Dean Merlin M. Magallona
	Ethics and the Professional Practice of Medicine (MCLE Compliance and Ethics for Lawyers)	3 hrs. (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)	Professor Estelito L. Dimagiba
29 Sept Friday	Personal Income and Corporate Tax Remedies (Constitutional Procedure)	3 hrs. (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)	Justice Oscar M. Herrera, Jr. (ret.)
	Taxation Issues in Legal Ethics (Legal Ethics)	3 hrs. (1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)	Dean Pacifico A. Agabin (ret.)
	Alternative Dispute Resolution: Mediation Lawyers (ADR)	3 hrs. (8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)	Prof. Rosalind Ocampo Ibazeta

Registration Fee: P7,500 (Non-member) or P7500 (Practitioner - inclusive of one-year IBP-IJA Accredited Certification of Membership)
Date, time and venue are subject to change without prior notice. For inquiries, please call 929-55-14 loc. 259-260

18 RP sailors settle dispute over back pay

LONG BEACH, California—A group of 18 Filipino sailors aboard a Greek cargo ship berthed at the Port of Long Beach agreed Monday to settle a labor dispute over back pay that led to a four-day strike, a union official said Monday.

"We have a settlement. The crew is going to take the ship to another ... destination, and the home straight," said Jeff Engels, West Coast coordinator of the International Transport Workers Federation, and one of the negotiators who represented the sailors.

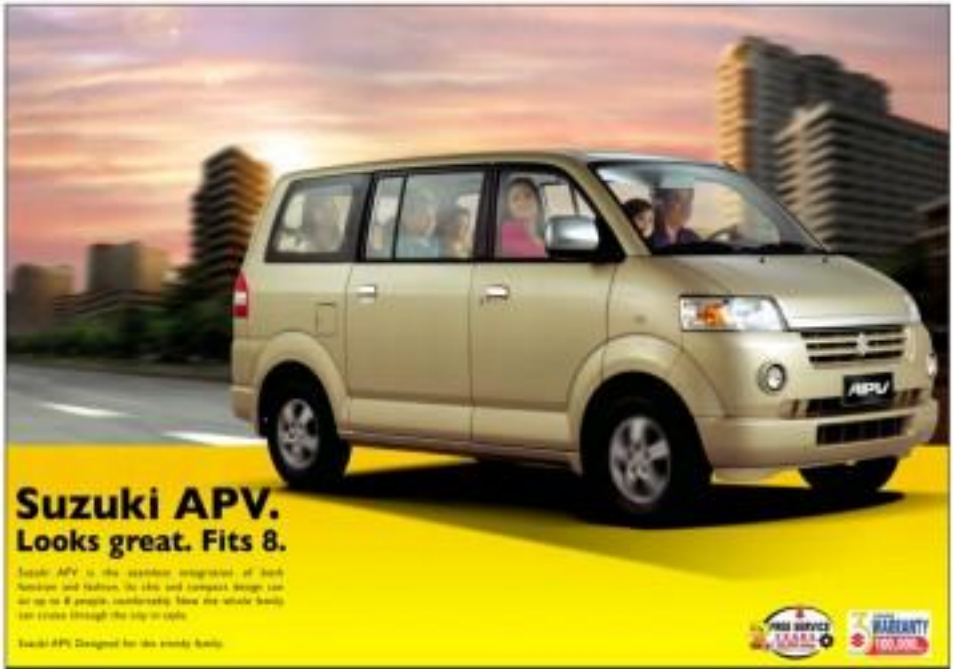
The crewmembers aboard the ship Endless Joy refused to work since Thursday night, when an inspection by the union found a discrepancy in the ship's books that showed the sailors were due more than $300,000 (about P15.2 million) in wages.

The sailors demanded they get paid before returning to work. In a show of solidarity, dockworkers assigned to load the ship watch picket lines rules refused to continue doing so, leaving another cargo ship stuck while waiting to dock in the Endless' berth.

Engels said the sailors would be receiving a "compromise amount" as part of the settlement, but declined to give specifics.

The sailors were expected to resume the ship out of the berth to allow a ship waiting to enter to dock. A replacement crew was going to be brought in to take over the Endless and sail it back to port later to complete its cargo operations, Engels said.

A call to attorney Frank Frisco, taken, who represents the ship's operators, Greece-based Sea Anchor S/A, was not immediately returned Monday evening. AP



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Commission opens probe of killings

From page A1

pine National Police Deputy Director Avelino Razon, the head of a special unit investigating the political killings, and asked him to report on government efforts to solve at least 100 murders of journalists and activists.

On Thursday, the panel plans to call Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, Cabinet-level commander of the 7th Infantry Division, who has been linked to most of the killings.

Ms Arroyo's ban, rights groups and economists which have criticized the Melo Commission, voicing doubts over its members' impartiality and over what they see as a cop offered by the President to appease European governments critical of her right record.

Surge of killings

Leftist groups list some 700 extrajudicial executions; the Inquirer counts 147 such murders.

The number of political and community activists shot dead in the Philippines has been disastrously this year. Rights group Amnesty International said in August it was gravely concerned that soldiers and police would be involved.

Amnesty International estimated at least 51 activists were killed in the first six months of the year, many gunned down by masked men on motorcycles. Last year, 66 were murdered.

Aside from fighting Moro rebels, Philippine security forces have been battling a communist insurgency since the late 1960s in a war of more than 40,000 lives.

Reuters

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Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 7 ISSUE, a front-page story—"Novelty joins SUSI, tourist bom to rival"—and the captions of the photo that accompanied the story's continuation on Page A8 misidentified the mayor of an 11 year-old girl who had learned to read with the help of the Susi Literacy Education and Support System (SUSI). The girl's name is Rosalie Dona...not Marven. The article and caption also mentioned that SUSI is run by the Philippine Christian School of Tomorrows. The program is run by Ms. Olive Lourenzo Centeno in the younger (sister). Rosalie has The same story likewise misspelled the name of the SUSI director. The director's name is Rowena Kalikha...not Dalaha.

* * *

IN THE SEPT. 9 ISSUE, an article on Page D4 of the Saturday Special section...."Celebrities mix books and booze"...misnamed the name of the actor who played Superman in a number of films. The late actor who played Superman was Christopher Reeves...not Steve Reeves.

* * *

IN THE SAME ISSUE, a story on Page A6...."CBN Journalist 9-day trip to Europe, Cuba, Hawaii"...misnamed the mayor of Quezon City to opposition politician who was granted President Macapagal-Arroyo's ire. The congressman's name is Rosevir Cuardo Datu...not Cuardo Datu.

* * *

IN THE SEPT. 11 ISSUE, a "Did you know" item on Page A23 of the Metro section misstated that the Sala de Bastillanes in Malabon was razed to the ground during a battle between Filipino and American forces in 1899. The building's ruins are still be seen in the city.

* * *

Readers may send their suggestions or corrections of factual errors in writing to the Star Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PIH Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati-Cembo Street, Makati City, fax this (632) 817-0136, e-mail editor@inquirer.com.ph

Liars, cheats . . .

From page A4

BIG Spanish shampoo after a secret tryst or lunch a weekend at a spa after a particularly ugly list.

They are human beings, after all, and it's simply published last week to our guilds, they feel a strong urge to wash their hands....Investigs—a study by the nonprofit sex in an unconscious effort to ease their consciences.

And it works, at least for minor guilt crimes. People who wash their hands after committing playing an unethical act are less troubled than those who did not, according to the study.

"The association between washing and physical purity has been taken for granted for so long that it was startling that no one had ever shown empirical evidence of it," said Chris-He Zhong, the author of the study with Kurt Lilienquist, a graduate student at Northwestern University. The study appeared in the journal Science.

The researchers call this urge to clean up the "Macbeth effect," after the scene in Shakespeare's tragedy in which Lady Macbeth mourns, "Out, damned spot!" after bloodying her hands when her husband, at her urging, murdered King Duncan.

In one of several experiments, the researchers had one group of Northwestern's University students recall an unethical act from their past, like betraying a friend, and another group recall an act as ethical deed, like returning lost money.

Afterward, the students had their choice of a gift, either a pencil or an antiseptic wipe. Those who had reflected on a shameful act were twice as likely to take the wipe.

Zhong and Lilienquist found that students who had been thinking about past sins were very likely to agree to volunteer their time to help with a graduate school project—unless they had been allowed to wash their hands, which ma their willingness to volunteer roughly in half.

In an interview, Zhong said that for the Macbeths, all the kingdom's washbasins were not enough to ease their consciences.

But the murder of a king, he acknowledged, falls into a different category from the routine sins of the underprivileged, which include shoplifting, lying and "kissing a married man."

"We do believe there might be limits or how well simple hand washing can clean your slate," he said. "But it remains to be seen where that limit is." *New York Times News Service*

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PACQUIAO-Win Mo Na!

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The Daily Gospel

Wednesday, September 13, 2006
23rd Week in Ordinary Time
John Chrysostom

1st Reading:	1 Cor 7:25-31
Gospel:	Luke 6:20-26

Lifting up his eyes to his disciples, Jesus said,

"Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people speak evil of you, for so did their ancestors of those people treated the prophets.

But alas for you who have wealth, for you have been comforted now.

Alas for you who are full, for you will go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now, for you will soon mourn and weep.

Alas for you when people speak well of you, for so did their ancestors of those people treated the false prophets."

Commentary:

This is hard! Impossible, you insist, for God is preaching the end of virtue to the wealthy and well-fed. Just not outside! Marriage is to be temporary, as well as having children and the long-established idea of being an ultimate sign of hope to the fate of the ways of the world. Instead he says the comfortable of the present, focus on preaching on promises. The world and passing away—we are in terms between the world and we do this by the beatitudes. All of us are called to be blessed now, poor, hungry, joy for justice, mourning over injustice and sinful in consequences, and joyful always as we preach the Good News as the poor to those who do not understand it or just want to. What is the heart of Jesus' life and message? Love one another, being and send the life that we have received. Being one of the first fruits of Man, beloved child and of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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Come with clean hands, solons advice Palparan

By Philip C. Tubeza

RETIRED MAJ. GEN. JOVITO PALPARAN (RET) came to the government with clean hands, advised administration lawmakers.

Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Maya Almario and Lorin Rep. Edcel Lagman told Palparan must first lay to rest the allegations that he was behind the extrajudicial killings of leftist activists before he could be appointed deputy for counterinsurgency in the National Security Council in Malacañang were.

Almario, chair of the House committee on games and amusement, said there was "no question about Palparan's dedication and professionalism... but appointing him at present could cause a problem to the government since he has yet to be cleared of charges of human rights violations."

"But however doesn't make him less of an asset," Almario said. "But if GMA will insist[on] still appoint him, the charges against him could pose a problem because there can be a liability as he performs his new tasks."

Almario noted that Palparan was facing investigation by the House committee on human rights and the Commission on Human Rights, and will soon be summoned by the Mindoro Commission which is looking into the extrajudicial killings of activists and journalists.

"He should be given the chance to face his accusers squarely in these fora and clear his name. We believe he can ably defend himself and will be vindicated of the charges against him in the end," Almario said.

The general, who retired from the military service on Monday had been tagged a "berdugo" by militant groups after leftist activists were killed or disappeared in areas where he had been assigned, such as in Central Luzon, Mindoro and Samar.

Board ends oil spill probe

By Leila B. Salaverria

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MARITIMA INDUSTRY authority yesterday concluded the session officially allowed the Solar 1 tanker to sail by ending that it was still within allowable limits.

But a member of the Special Board of Marine Inquiry believed that letting the Solar 1 carry more load affected its stability and contributed to its sinking on Aug. 11 while loaded with 2.1 million liters of oil.

The incident caused a massive oil spill that affected Guimaras and Iloilo.

Marina vessel architect Carlos Ordonez told reporters yesterday that the tanker's Marina-approved freeboard, which refers to the distance between the main deck of the vessel and the portion of it level with the water line, was within the allowed limit and also let the tanker carry more load and roam more overseas.

The Marina-approved freeboard was lower than that specified by private classification society Bureau Veritas, which had inspected the tanker. A higher freeboard means there should be less load on the vessel.

When asked during yesterday's SBMI hearing what he thought was the effect of adding more load to the Solar 1, Ordonez answered: "I think that is the version."

He said that with the Marina-approved freeboard, the tanker could have a 98 percent load, whereas with the Bureau Veritas freeboard, the load was only 78 percent.

But he added that the 900 millimeter freeboard the Marina approved was still within the load line convention.

Marina engineer Bobby Carpio, who also of the SBMI but also took the witness stand yesterday testified that the Bureau Veritas certificate designating the 1,200-millimeter freeboard was only valid for a single voyage, which was the tanker's delivery from Japan to the Philippines.

Carpio also said the original freeboard of the tanker was 980 millimeters, which was even lower than the Marina-approved one.

Ordonez

Other 'Guyito' beneficiaries

School	Sponsor	At-Bat	Date
Kanao Years Public Memorial High School Mt. Asuncion Village, Dist., Buhiganon City	Digital Media Philippines	Rafael Salonga	Sept. 13
Puerto Princesa National Science High school Sta. Monica, Puerto Princesa City	PLDT Group	Bravado	Sept. 20
Philippine Science High School Cebu Sitio, Dumlubao Sur	ABAP	Antonio Effenseria Jr.	Sept. 29
Philippine Science High School Iloilo Jaro District, Iloilo City	Canon Marketing	Jet Sarmiento	Oct. 6
Leyte National High School Mahaon St., Poblacion, Leyte	Ace Hardware	Cuffy	Oct. 13
Regional Science High School-Region II Malaniga, San Roque, Cambuanga City	ABBC	Jack Salud	Oct. 20
Pushal National High School Pushal, Dagupan de Oro City	Black Forest	Bing Dantis	Oct. 27
Tagum National High School Mangga, Visayan Village, Tagum City	Web coach	Raul Sibanac	Nov. 3
Kidapawan National High School Amanpo, Poblacion, Kidapawan City	Nutrit	Showcentre	Nov. 10
Regional Caraga Science High School P. Rl San Juan, Butuan City	Nokia	Bro Hardware	Nov. 17
Mati Barangkasan National High School Lawigan, Pantang, Maguindanao	Philta Marine	Fred Moran	Nov. 24

Guyito finds home in northern Luzon

From page A1

multicolor tarpon motif dominated by blue and orange.

Cheers in Baguio

A similarly cool, rainy morning did not prevent students of Baguio's Pines City National High School from gathering in the school's courtyard to welcome their Guyito on Aug. 18.

Holding umbrellas, the students cheered as Guyito was unveiled during a short program.

Members of the school's Tuntex Pinay, clad in G-strings and sunnies shirts, treated students and guests to a wear dance.

Andrew Nathaniel Sorny, a PCNHS graduate whose performance in the National Quiz Bee qualified the school to receive the mascot, said he was very proud to have brought the honor to his school.

Pinoy Kalabaw

The mascot that PCNHS received was painted by Annie Balao. It shows a grinning carabao with wings carrying books on its back.

In Toribo, Guyito found another home in Aug. 23 at the Victorias National High School in Victorias town.

Dressed by Mahong, the Guyito of the PSHS bears the colors of the Philippines, with a happy message of the Motherland on the animal's back.

The artist calls it "Pinoy Kalabaw (Filipino Carabao)."

Guyito enshrined

School officials said the mascot would be installed in the flower garden across the school's entrance.

At the acceptance rites, school principal Antonio Montemayor said students would be asked to take turns in maintaining the statue.

The school got the sculpture as a prize for the feat of its student, Kara Mia Lanquin, at the National Quiz Bee last year.

In Cagayan, Guyito was received by students of the Cagayan National High School in Tuguegarao City when the mascot was turned over to school officials on Sept. 5.

Hi-tech carabao

Dr. Linda Tangcil, CHSU principal, said the school would treasure Guyito because it reminded them of the Iconoclast's program in pushing for youth excellence.

CHSU student Benjamin Erbert Nicolas' performance during the Quiz Bee finals last year earned for the school the Guyito painted by Salvador "Bads" Cosiaco.

In a story published in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine last year, Cosiaco said he purposely veered away from painting a water buffalo for Guyito.

"I wanted to give it a twist, so instead of making it usual design, which is what you'd instantly think of, I made mine a 'high-tech' carabao. I wanted a look that would catch attention and make people think about how it was done," he said.

Hard work and excellence

During the caravans stop in Northern and Central Luzon, Rabaquino urged school officials and students to take care of Guyito, saying it symbolizes intelligence, hard work and excellence.

At its stops, the Iconoclasts gave free online workshops that introduced the staff members of the schools' publications to the newspaper's operations and production. Staffers reporting from Dalandán Estela Fuertes and Dr. Faustino Golden, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Dennis Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon

More evidence sought to back Lipa apparition

From page A1

clue attributed to it in the hope that the Vatican would reconsider its decision that cast doubt on the event.

"We're collecting stories from the parents as well as particularly ordinary of testimonies from the past by old people. It's good that they are leaving something because they are already dying one by one," the prelate told reporters.

Today marks the 50th anniversary of the appointment and the first National Pilgrimage of Lipa by Guevarrion, Conservatore and Repositor as the Shrine of the Mediatrix of All Grace.

The event is organized by the Lipa Archdiocese and has devotees led by Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos.

Besides the reported Marian apparitions, several miracles were believed to have taken place in the Carmelite convent in Lipa City, according to Arguelles.

Not yet closed

"The case is not yet closed," Arguelles said, adding that the new documents and testimonies, which may or may not be accepted as evidence, would be merged with other materials presented in earlier probes.

"What knows, the validation of the apparition may take place in the near century. But God's time is not ours, you and me since it appeared quickly, in our own time, but it's not actually necessary. We should not look for our own satisfaction," he added.

Arguelles also lauded Sister Teresita Castillo, whom he quoted as saying that she was not after official recognition but only for Catholics to believe in Mary's intercession, pray more and turn away from evildeeds.

19 reported appearances

Castillo claimed the Virgin appeared to her 19 times from Sept. 12 to Nov. 13, 1948, identifying herself as the Mediatrix of All Grace, ordering that a statue of her be made and asking for prayers.

After the apparitions, rose petals reportedly fell on the convent cells, in other parts of the convent and even outside the premises. The petals were said to have been inscribed with images of the Virgin, Jesus Christ and St. Joseph.

'Not supernatural'

However, a commission of five bishops declared in 1951 that the event was "not supernatural."

Castillo and the other nuns were forbidden by Church authorities to spread alleged apparitions. Arguelles noted that obedience to superiors was one of the instructions the visionary received from the Virgin.

In 1981, then-Archbishop of Lipa Mariano Gaviola studied the apparitions and later granted permission to expose once again the icon of the Mediatrix.

In January 1991, the papal observers again left and the Virgin Mary was reported to have delivered to Castillo again. Three years later, Gaviola declared his personal conviction that the events in Lipa were worthy of belief, paving the way for the canonical celebrations of the place.

Regardless of the veracity of the apparitions, Arguelles said many people believed in "the strong and grace-filled presence of the Virgin Mother in Lipa."

"The best proof of the authenticity [of an apparition] is in its fruits on the people," he added.

Arguelles noted that the crowd of devotees congregating in Lipa the past years had "experienced (Mary's) maternal care" and that every pilgrim "is aware of his/her inner purification, of new resolutions and joyful emotions even in some infinite mercy and Mary's enduring love."

Pilgrim's goal

Arguelles said praying for peace, harmony and genuine progress in the country and everywhere should be the pilgrim's goal instead of buying relics of the apparition.

"Without denying past events, more people-concerns lies on what is happening to past decades and pay more grateful attention to what God and the Holy Mother still tell us now and the days ahead," he added.

Many other Church officials, including Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales of Manila, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal of Cebu and Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of Jaro, who is also president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, have endorsed the pilgrimage and thus, indirectly, their belief that the apparitions were true.

Day of prayer

Presidential Musicgagal-Arroyo has also declared today a Regional Day of Prayer, Repentance and Consecration for Our Nation under Proclamation No. 1895 that she issued on July 10.

The Carmelite convent became a popular destination in the late '40s and early '50s. The crowds dwindled for a while until they increased in the early 1990s.

The organizers of the Lipa event hope to propagate a Marian devotion similar to those being observed by the Our Ladies of the Rosary in Manaoag, Good Voyage in Antipolo and Our Lady in Naga City. With a report from Marites Alexander Lucero, Inquirer Southern Luzon

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Names of the lost echo across Ground Zero

Front page A1

markably laying wreaths and roses in the deep waters' dampness.

The mournful sound of bagpipes, as familiar from the seemingly endless funerals that followed Sept. 11, echoed across Ground Zero after a short performance the national anthem.

The ritual has changed little since the first anniversary of the attacks, and in many ways the site has remained the same as well.

Squabbles over design and security have caused long delays in the project to rebuild on Ground Zero. Only this year did construction start on a Sept. 11 memorial and the 533-meter Freedom Tower, which is not expected to be finished for five more years. After numbers, officials turned on a memorial light display near the site, sending beams of blue light skyward in a silhouette of the twin towers.

President George W. Bush laid a wreath at the Shanksville, Pennsylvania, field where United Flight 93 crashed, and privately greeted relatives of the 40 people killed there. Standing without umbrellas in a cold rain, he and first lady Laura Bush bowed their heads for a prayer and the singing of "Amazing Grace."

"One moment, ordinary citizens, and the next, heroes forever," retired Gen. Tommy Franks said, alluding to the Flight 93 passengers who apparently fought the hijackers and forced them to crash the plane into the ground. "We mourn their loss, to be sure, but we also celebrate their victory here in the first battle on terror."

Fight for civilization

In a prime-time White House address last Monday, Bush characterized the war against terrorism as a "struggle for civilization" that requires a determined effort by a unified country.

"We are fighting to maintain the way of life enjoyed by free nations," Bush said.

He ate breakfast with New York firefighters, and a day earlier walked Ground Zero and held moments in reflecting pools that symbolized the north and south towers.

After visiting Shanksville on Monday, Bush and his wife placed a wreath near a plaque on the outside of the Pentagon, where American Airlines Flight 77 claimed 184 lives and tore a gash in the building. Bush appeared teary-eyed as he greeted victims' family members around him, and he could be seen mouthing "God bless you" as he embraced them.

In an afternoon near the Pentagon, Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld made side by side to a speaker's platform.

Rumsfeld appeared to struggle with his emotions to be no other the day of the attacks, and Cheney vowed resolve. "We have no intention of ignoring or appeasing history's latest gang of lunatics trying to murder their way to power."

The day was marked with reminders of the innocence torn new reality that settled on the nation, and particularly its transportation systems, after the attacks five years ago.

Suspicious bag

New York's bustling Pennsylvania Station was briefly evacuated because of a suspicious duffel bag that turned out to be holding only trash. And a jet bound for San Francisco was diverted to Dallas after a backpack and handheld a small device were found on board. Both items were pronounced harmless.

And few anyone forget the terrorists responsible for the day, al-Qaida's second in command appeared in a videotaped statement to the Persian Gulf and against Israel in a new video Monday.

It was one of three al-Qaida videos released around the Sept. 11 anniversary. One showed images of the hijackers jets striking the trade towers, and in another Osama bin Laden smiled and chatted with the planners of the attacks.

In Washington, the co-chairs of the Sept. 11 commission charged with investigating the attacks assailed the Bush administration and Congress for what they called a lack of urgency in protecting the country. Only about half of the 41 recommendations issued by the commission two years ago have become law.

Former Rep. Lee Hamilton and former New Jersey Gov. Tom Kean cited a failure to distribute adequate homeland security money to cities most at risk for an attack. They said U.S. policy toward both nations had been largely ineffective.

White House spokesperson Dana Perino insisted that the administration had adopted many of the commission's recommendations. She said Bush "wakes every day determined to ensure that we are doing all we can—with all the lawful tools possible—to detect and prevent terrorist attacks."

'We'll never forget'

At Boston's Logan Airport, security screens on wearing wristbands that said "We will never forget" stopped checking passengers for a moment to mark the anniversary, and travelers waiting in line—another legacy of the attacks—paused to join the efforts.

At Dallas Fort Worth International, speakers at a ceremony paused intermittently as jets roared overhead, and an employee choir sang "God Bless America."

At Bobo Field in Lansdowne, Michigan, and other stadiums, tens of thousands of football fans chanted "U-S-A! U-S-A!" as moved times from flight.

Ceremonies around the country inevitably included salutes to police and firefighters.

Across the Hudson River from Ground Zero, officials in Secaucus, New Jersey, dedicated a large bronze memorial to victims of the 2000 attacks and the 1993 truck-bomb bombing. In Shanksville, Somerset County Rick Perry announced a globe-shaped monument to people who have served in the war on terrorism.

The families of the nearly 3,000 people killed five years ago made their way through the anniversary as best they could, the rituals now familiar but never easier.

Keeping legend alive

Among those was the family of Lindsay Lee Williams, 25, who was on American Flight 11, the first plane to hit the trade towers. Her mother, Sheri Williams, remains haunted by the way her daughter died, but comes to ground zero every year "to keep her legend alive."

Sheri Williams said her son helps the way by visiting Gautier's grave in Granbury, Connecticut, covering it with yellow roses, her favorite. Then they get on a train and travel to lower Manhattan.

And on the modest found herself at ground zero on Monday morning, holding a large, framed photo of her blonde, blue-eyed daughter.

"It's so hard to believe the five years have passed," Sheri Williams said. "She would have been 25. She wanted to do so much with her life."

AP

THE "TRIBUTE in Lights" shines on the skyline of New York City above a memorial containing a steel beam taken from the World Trade Center in Jersey Citysee Sept. 11.

SC lets Loren present evidence

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE SUPREME COURT, ACTING AS THE PRESidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), yesterday gave former Sen. Loren Legarda the go-signal to present evidence and witnesses to prove that she was indeed cheated during the 2004 vice presidential election.

The PET, with retired Justice Bernardo Pardo as hearing officer, also lauded a motion of the lawyers of Vice President Noli de Castro for it to examine as evidence the election documents submitted by the House of Representatives.

Instead, the PET directed the Commission on Elections to submit the original election documents presented by Legarda.

It also subpoenaed Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos to appear in the next hearing on Sept. 18, to testify on the Comelec documents.

At the same time, the PET allowed Wilfredo Gonzales, a Comelec official in charge of the ballots and boxes used in the 2004 polls, to testify. Gonzales said the copies of the election returns secured by Legarda from the poll body and which she submitted to the PET were authentic.

Rizio Hollaender, Legarda's counsel, said the Comelec copies of the tally would show that the entries from the House of Representatives were spurious.

Legarda said the figures reflected in the copies of the Comelec and the election records in Mindanao Citizens Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), were similar.

She insisted that the election documents which Congress used in canvassing the votes both for president and vice president were faked, thereby depriving the people of their duly elected leaders.

Legarda won the contest over incumbent President and now Pampanga Rep. Jr. who died before his own election protest against President Macapagal-Arroyo took off. Both of them were standard bearers of the then dominant opposition party, Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP).

In the Congress overall tally, De Castro received 15,100,410 votes while Legarda, 14,334,709 votes.

The bulk of De Castro's lead came from Cebu alone where he got 886,916 votes as against Legarda's 299,272.

But according to Legarda, the greatest irregularities committed with fake votes in the custody of the House of Representatives occurred between December 2004 and February 2005 based on media reports and several witnesses.

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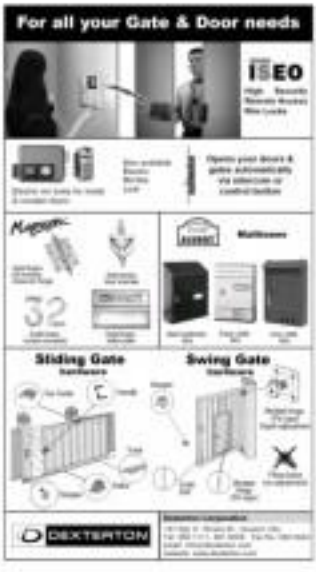

Unicameral legislature to cost less, says dean

By Norman Bordadora

A UNICAMERAL legislature of 320 members is more cost-effective than maintaining two houses of Congress with less than 300 members, according to the dean of the University of the East College of Law.

"Even with 320 members under a unicameral system as compared to 300 senators and congressmen, the parliamentary setup is still the cheaper and more feasible system because of the hundreds of millions of pesos that the government could save with the endless passage of laws under a single-chamber legislature," Dean Amado Valdez said.

3 levels

In a bicameral system, lawmakers go to congress during the respective levels of senators—the Senate, House of Representatives and the bicameral conference committee, he said. In a unicameral system, legislators manage only go through a single chamber.

Valdez said savings from a unicameral legislative process could be used to build more farm roads and post-harvest facilities, classrooms, potable water and irrigation systems. It could also be used to provide quality, primary health care to impoverished families.

Under the setup of the proposed parliamentary system, the country would be divided into districts with a population of 300,000 people. Each of those districts would be entitled to an elected member of the regular parliament.

Power brokers

Based on the census date of a national population of 88 million, the proposed parliament would have 286 regular seats, Valdez said.

"Another distinct advantage of electing MPs instead of congressmen is that the people themselves, instead of power brokers, elect whomever they want to represent them in Parliament," he added.

Jacinto; 74

GEORGE BONGOLAN Jacinto of Baguio's Hill compound in Bagiuo City died on Sept. 9 (Saturday). He is survived by his wife Angelina and children and in-laws Abel, Ramon and Mariano, Carol and Dan, Joey and Alberta, Marvin, Jose and Jinky and Teepee; and grandchildren Jan, Ayo, Tina, Kim, Snoop Boy, Bobby, JJ and Francis.

His remains lie at the Baguio Memorial Chapel in Baguio City. Interment will be held at the Baguio Cemetery on Saturday, Sept. 16, after a 9 a.m. Mass at the St. Vincent's Church.

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[illegible]

OSCAR CAMERINO,
Petitioner,

-versus- CIVIL CASE NO. 03-172
FOR: PETITION TO REVOKE POWER OF AT
TORNEY

MARIANO NOCOM,
Respondent.
x-----x

EFREN CAMERINO, CORNELIO MANTES and
ARLENED DEL ROSARIO, in her capacity as Legal
heir and representative of NOLASCO DEL ROSARIO,
Intervenors,

-versus-

MARIANO NOCOM,
Respondent.
x-----x

SUMMARY JUDGMENT

This is a "Petition To Revoke Power of Attorney" filed by Oscar Camerino, petitioner, against Mariano Nocom, respondent covering Tct. 11. The alleged irrevocable Special Power of Attorney dated December 18, 2001, is purportedly signed by petitioner by revoked and nullified. The respondent refuses to surrender the Transfer Certificate of Title No. 11-2001, dated 4/8/97, to the petitioner until (1) the respondent be ready to pay for advances fees and all other legal fees incurred by petitioner in connection with the instant case.

The respondent, through counsel, filed a written opposition contending that said power of attorney is coupled with interest and hence, it cannot be revoked.

The antecedent facts of the case are as follows: Victoria Montes, Inc. was the previous registered owner of three (3) parcels of land situated in the District of Bayanan, Municipality of Muntinlupa Province of Rizal, now Bayanan Tunasan, Municipality City, Metro Manila, formerly described and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title Nos. 220127(T-9215), 8-22446 (220128(T-9216) and 8-33033, with an area of 139,133 square meters, 73,849 square meters and 139,812 square meters, respectively.

Oscar Camerino, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantilla, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez were the lessees-tenants of Victoria Montes Inc., cultivating and planting agricultural products consisting of rice and corn on the said lands since 1961.

On February 8, 1983, without notifying Oscar Camerino, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantilla, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez, Victoria Montes Inc., sold the said parcels of land to Spouses Mariano Nocom and Lucia Lopez (1992-R) 8-31031, as lessee of Sprngsun Management System Corporation, represented by its attorney-in-fact, Tax Management Programs Corporation for the amount of P2,500,000.00.

On July 12, 1983, also without prior notice to Oscar Camerino, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantilla, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez, Victoria Montes Inc., sold the said parcels of land to Tct No. 5-72144 to Springsun Management System Corporation, represented by its attorney-in-fact, Tax Management Programs Corporation, for the amount of P2,500,000.00.

The titles of said land (February 7, 1983, was registered in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Rizal on April 11, 1983, resulting in the cancellation of TCT Nos. 220127(T-9215) and 220128(T-9216) in the name of Victoria Montes, Inc. and the issuance of TCT Nos. 12-2042 and 12-2043, in the name of Spring Management System Corporation on April 11, 1983.

On the other hand, the deed of sale dated July 12, 1983 was likewise registered with the Register of Deeds of Rizal on July 20, 1983, resulting in the cancellation of TCT No. 5-72144 in the name of Victoria Montes Inc. and the issuance of TCT No. 12-1872 in the name of Springsun Management Corporation.

Springsun Management Corporation mortgaged the land covered by TCT No. 12-1872 on July 16, 1987, to secure for the payment of a loan of P1,000,000.00 in favor of Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank, which was subsequently mortgaged on May 12, 1994 for the increased amount of P6,000,000.00, while the lands covered by TCT Nos. 12-2043 and 12-2042 were mortgaged to the same bank in the amount of P6,180,000.00 on April 11, 1983, which was later increased to P8,895,000.00 on May 12, 1994.

Springsun Management System Corporation defaulted in the payment of its mortgage obligation. Consequently, the mortgaged property covered by TCT No. 12-1872 was sold at public auction at the extra-judicial foreclosure sale conducted by notary public Enrique T. Quiason in the amount of P6,128,139.91, while the lands covered by TCT Nos. 12-2043 and 12-2042, were sold for P8,150,000.00 in favor of Banco Filipino, who foreclosed as the highest bidder thereof. The certificate of sale over said properties dated November 6, 1987 was registered on February 18, 1988. Then, the one-year redemption period expired on February 18, 1989.

The titles, however, remained in the name of Springsun Management System Corporation even after the period of redemption had expired on February 18, 1989 as Banco Filipino did not consolidate its ownership over the properties as required by the foreclosure sale.

On December 13, 1994, Springsun Management System Corporation filed with the Muntinlupa Trial Court, Civil Cases Nos. 2208 to 2213 for breach of contract against the tenants/lessees and employees of Oscar Camerino, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantilla, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez.

Summons having served with sentences by the Muntinlupa Trial Court, the said employees filed their respective answers, and even then, they had not received any notice of preliminary conference. Till on February 10, 1995, it appeared that the said preliminary conference was held and terminated and they were required to file their position papers.

Aggrieved by the said development, Oscar Camerino, et. al., filed on March 7, 1995 with the Regional Trial Court, Muntinlupa City, a Petition for Prohibition, Certiorari, Mandamus and Injunction and Damages, Injunction and Temporary Restraining Order, which case was assigned to Branch 256, Judge Jaime Salazar and docketed as Civil Case No. 95-020.

The Regional Trial Court, Branch 256 did not grant the injunctive relief prayed for by Oscar Camerino, et. al., hence, the Metropolitan Trial Court, Br. 80 proceeded with the hearing of the cases, and on July 13, 1995, it rendered a decision dismissing the cases.

Upon learning with said decision, Springsun Management System Corporation appealed the same to the Regional Trial Court and the cases were docketed as Civil Case Nos. 95-020 to 95-025, and were assigned by raffle to Branch 276, presided over by the Honorable Judge N.C. Pinello.

On May 29, 1996, then Judge N.C. Pinello promulgated his decision reversing the lower court's decision and ordering the defendants-appellees, Oscar Camerino, et. al., to vacate the subject parcels of land and to pay Springsun Management System Corporation the sum of P50,000.00 as attorney's fees and the cost of proceedings.

Upon delivery of the said decision, physical possession of the properties in dispute was turned over to Springsun Management System Corporation on July 11, 1998, by virtue of a Writ of Execution implemented by Sheriff IV Jaime B. Barnachea.

Meanwhile, Springsun Management System Corporation and Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank filed with the Regional Trial Court, Muntinlupa City, a complaint against Oscar Camerino, et. al., docketed as Civil Case No. 95-020. Springsun interposed the defense that Oscar Camerino, et. al., are not its tenants and therefore they have no cause of action against it. On the other hand, Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank contends that insofar as it is concerned, the claims of Oscar Camerino et. al., cannot legally prosper because it is a mortgagee in good faith and for value.

After the case was tried and submitted for decision, the RTC, Branch 256, Springsun Management System Corporation and Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank (Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank on May 13, 2003).

After the parties submitted their respective evidence, the Court (RTC, Br. 256) considered the case (Civil Case No. 95-020) submitted for decision. It is very evident that the only issue except for the parties of the right regarding their respective claim over lands, with or without improvements.

Since the problem involves only and exclusive aspects of the case between Springsun Management System Corporation and Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank on May 13, 2003.

After the parties submitted their respective evidence, the Court (RTC, Br. 256) considered the case (Civil Case No. 95-020) submitted for decision. It is very evident that the only issue except for the parties of the right regarding their respective claim over lands, with or without improvements.

Since the problem involves only and exclusive aspects of the case between Springsun Management System Corporation and Banco Filipino Savings and Mortgage Bank on May 13, 2003.

On January 22, 2003, RTC, Br. 256 rendered judgment in Civil Case No. 95-020, [illegible] declaring that Oscar Camerino, et. al., are entitled to redress, and ordering Springsun Management System Corporation to allow the former to redeem the landholdings in question within 180 days from finality of decision at the total price of P9,776,123.00 and upon full payment of the redemption price, Springsun Management System Corporation is ordered to deliver to Oscar Camerino, et. al., the title and the corresponding deed of Redemption so that the title to the properties in litigation can be transferred in the name of the latter. Plaintiffs, [illegible] Declaring Oscar Camerino, et. al., entitled to possession and ordering Springsun Management System Corporation to defendants [illegible] and all persons claiming under it to vacate the lands in question and to surrender the same to the former immediately. [illegible] ordering the case as against Banco Filipino Savings Bank and Mortgage Bank, and [illegible] ordering Springsun Management System Corporation to pay Oscar Camerino, et. al., the sum of P200,000.00 as attorney's fees, plus cost.

After the motion to reconsider said decision was denied, Springsun Management System Corporation interposed an appeal to the Court of Appeals, which on September 27, 2005, affirmed the same in C.A.G.R. SP No. 72477 with modification in the sense that the award of attorney's fees to the amount of P200,000.00 in favor of Oscar Camerino, et. al., was deleted.

On December 18, 2001, upon instigation of Atty. Isango counsel for Oscar Camerino, et. al., in Civil Case No. 95-020 and as appeals case of the appeal [illegible] of Mariano Nocom, respondent herein, Oscar Camerino, Efren Camerino, Cornelio Mantilla, Nolasco del Rosario and Domingo Enriquez, plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 95-020 along with the respondent herein executed and signed the "Irrevocable Special Power of Attorney" notarized by Atty. Amado S. Sarmiento, which document is reproduced hereunder.

"IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY"

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

WE, OSCAR CAMERINO, of legal age, Filipino, married to Teresita L. Magbanua; EFREN CAMERINO, of legal age, Filipino, married to Susana Camerino; CORNELIO MANTILLA, of legal age, Filipino married to Maria [illegible] Alias; NOLASCO DEL ROSARIO, of legal age, Filipino, married to Marlene [illegible] and DOMINGO ENRIQUEZ, of legal age, Filipino, married to Mildred [illegible] and CARMELITO ENRIQUEZ, of legal age, Filipino, married to Gemma Enriquez, all residents of [illegible] are collectively referred to as "Grantors" hereinafter, have constituted, appointed and by these presents do hereby make, constitute and appoint ATTY. AMADO S. SARMIENTO, of the [illegible] with office at No. 2121 Taft Ave., Pasay City, as our true and lawful attorney, in general and without limitation, to do, act and perform, or cause to be done, acted and performed, for us and in our name, in all or any of the following acts and deeds:

1. To sell, assign, transfer, dispose of, mortgage and otherwise encumber the properties described in TCT Nos. 12-2041, 12-2043 and 12-1872 of the Register of Deeds of Muntinlupa City, and in the name of Springsun Management System Corporation, a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Civil Case No. 95-020 of the Regional Trial Court of Muntinlupa City, Branch 256, the said cases are on appeal before the Court of Appeals docketed as CA-G.R. SP No. 72477 entitled "Springsun Management System Corporation vs. Oscar Camerino, et. al." and decided by the Court of Appeals on its decision dated September 27, 2005 in CA-G.R. SP No. 72477, adjudged that we are legally entitled to redeem the said lands from Springsun Management System Corporation;

2. To comply with the said decision by paying the redemption price to Springsun Management System and/or to the court, and upon such payment, to accept execution of the said decision, in that the title can be issued in the name of one of us;

3. To accept and receive for his exclusive benefit all the proceeds which may be derived from the sale, mortgage, transfer or disposition of the said lands;

4. To sign and execute all the necessary papers, deeds and documents that may be necessary or the accomplishment or purposes of the Deeds of Assignment, and to issue receipts and final acquittance therefor;

5. To negotiate, deal and transact with all the persons and entities involved in Civil Case No. 95-020, RTC, Muntinlupa City, Branch 256, with full power and authority to compromise and settle;

6. To present all documents and papers in government agencies relative to the case in question and case in court, and to prepare the necessary transfer certificate of title in the name of one of us, and to pay the taxes thereon.

GIVING AND GRANTING unto said power and authority as our said attorney, relief to do all things requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises as fully to all intents and purposes as we might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution and revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that our said attorney shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto affixed my signature this 18th day of December, 2001.

[illegible] OSCAR CAMERINO
Grantor

[illegible] EFREN CAMERINO
Grantor

IC MAY KNOW

ndi victimizing unsuspecting farmers/
's power-of-attorney as *void ab initio*
ic policy in a celebrated land case

[illegible] COMPERAT MANTILE
Petitioner
Makati Ave., Poblacion
Municipality City

[illegible] NICASIO DE ROMERO
Petitioner
Sotelo St., Poblacion Norte
Tarlac Norte, Municipality City

[illegible] DOMINGO ENRIQUEZ
Petitioner
Fatimal Puerto Azules
Fatimal, Municipality City

RITA D. HABITAT-EL CONSENTE

[illegible] TERESITA MALDONADO
Wife of Oscar Carmelino

[illegible] GUSTAVO CABRERO
Wife of Hiram Cabrero

[illegible] MARILEE ALVARADO
Wife of Leandro Alvarado

[illegible] HILDRED JUBILI
Wife of Nicanor del Rosario

[illegible] ORCHIDEA ENRIQUEZ
Wife of Domingo Enriquez

-versus-

[illegible] MARIANO NOGUIS
Deceased

Likewise on the same date (December 18, 2001), Mariano Noguis, respondent herein, and by Oscar Camerino and by co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 97-4220 for (1) Holdout Bank Deposit of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) for each of the five (5) co-plaintiffs, or a total sum of Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P2,500,000.00); (2) Declaration of Nullity of Deed of Sale; (3) Cancellation of Titles; (4) Reconveyance; (5) Damages; and (6) Attorney's Fees, filed a complaint-in-intervention which same their own motion was admitted by the Court, inasmuch parties have legal interest in the subject matter of litigation, they being petitioners/co-plaintiffs in Civil Case No. 97-323, which they were against the defendants therein.

The petitioner basis ally alleged that he was made to sign the special power of attorney through deceit and stealth by their lawyer, Atty. Arturo Santos, who gave them assurance and his companions aware that titles to the subject lots were already transferred to them or issued in their names by the Register of Deeds of Municipality City and notwithstanding that titles to the subject lots were already issued in their names, the owner's duplicate copies of the titles were never surrendered to them; hence, the petitioner had to execute an affidavit of adverse claim over their titled lots and have it annotated on their respective titles with the Register of Deeds.

The petitioner contends that the power of attorney in question is a void ab initio document and it is really coupled with interest, the alleged interest should clearly appear on the said instrument, which is not the case, and their deeds of conveyances which are the subject of the case, and their deeds of conveyances which are the subject of the case, and their deeds of conveyances which are the subject of

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Quackery

EDITORIAL

A SUMMIT OF LAME DUCKS TOOK PLACE UNDER the radar in Cebu City. Under the pretext of a "3rd Termer Councilor Recognition" ceremony, officials seem fixed at public expense for a purpose that goes beyond the usual junkets.

According to Inquirer columnist Juan Mercado, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor asked the assembled councilor, who "waste P10 billion to P20 billion for the election"? Defensor never so explains, "With not an election in 2007, you could put in their perspective no what junk this country should take. Instead, we should work for a system that is stable . . . a parliamentary system."

Mercado noted that this was the "first overt resuscitation of the notorious 'Sin II' proposal." He is correct as far as the executive branch is concerned, but Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay did the same thing recently in the House. Pichay floated the idea of extending everyone's terms to at least September of next year, thereby postponing the May elections. But once postponed, who is to say they can't be postponed again? Congressmen appreciate the value of precedents.

This goes beyond former President Fidel V. Ramos' glib contribution to Philippine political thought: the concept of "win-win." This is about not having to win at all to keep on reaping the benefits of office.

It's the revised of a deal, the juicy details of which were first revealed last year at the height of President Macapagal-Arroyo's political troubles. It was widely viewed at the time as an unapologetic form of political bribery. In exchange for keeping the President in office, officials high and low were offered the equivalent of an additional term, without the need for an election, bypassing the existing term limits. Furthermore, terms would then be extended to five years without limits on reelection. Every incumbent whose three terms were running out could then enjoy a reprieve. And so could every official facing the prospect of having a strong competitor. A councilor could remain in office, which relieved mayors of the threat of rivals; mayors would not have to campaign against governors, or governors compete with congressmen. Even incumbent senators serving their last term would have a few additional years of incumbency and continued access to the pork barrel.

Why waste billions for elections, after all, particularly in the face of a hostile population? The money would be better spent. Defensor seems to suggest, placating the public while maintaining the status quo.

At least last year, Ramos dared to think big. As he said in July 2005, "Not only should President Arroyo sacrifice but everybody should sacrifice to ensure the survival of the country." But when he suggested the Presidency prove her belief in the parliamentary system by stepping down, she manipulated Ramos.

The example set the top has been replicated down the line—and emulated by Defensor. Ramos has been reduced to going along with his party, lest he be permanently marginalized. And whatever political energies he has left are spent talking to political middles.

Proponents of Charter change have long complained that they're not being given the benefit of the doubt. They have asked that political considerations, including the tangible benefits such changes offer not only to the Palace but to all officials, shouldn't blind the public to the benefits arising from such changes. But the behavior of the President, her Cabinet, her allies in the House and in local governments demonstrates that even if others who are pushing for Charter change are sincere, their allies who are holding office are not.

The one thing the government cannot avoid, if its plan A (people's initiative) or plan B (constituent assembly) squeaks past the Supreme Court, is a plebiscite. It will be a contentious and expensive one whose credibility is far from assured. And it won't prevent the fight from spilling over into local elections thereafter.

Defensor has shown that neither he nor the administration itself can avoid being compared to a quick doctor peddling quack solutions, literature at the heart of the "great debate on Charter change" is the haggling over what sacrifices stand to gain from it.

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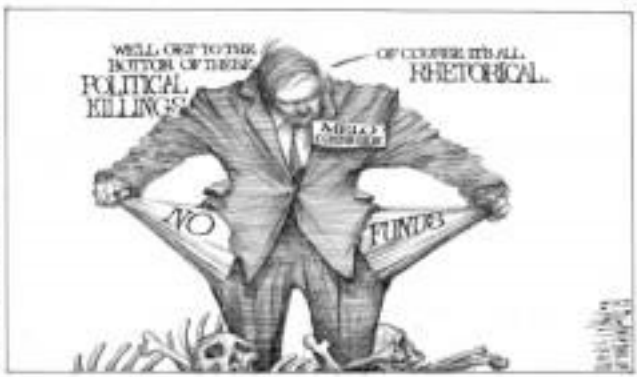

To have and have not in Parañaque

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

YEARS AGO, A WORLD LEADER PREDICTED that Metro Manila would be waged over water. His prediction is now happening to parched parts of the world.

In the Philippines, that war is already being waged in Parañaque, which is a part of the modern metropolis that is Metro Manila. At this city, new to ringing but worse than heaven and the have-nots—those who have water and those who have none.

Parañaque is a perfect example of the malfeasance of government officials, both national and local, in providing the people with the most basic of necessities: water. People can do without electricity but they cannot do without water.

Years ago, greater Manila expanded southward, with more residential subdivisions springing in the suburbs. Water companies from the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System were formed, but that did not stop the developers from opening up more subdivisions. They simply drilled wells and sucked out underground water.

Their success proved to be their downfall. The population of Parañaque soon outgrew the water supply. Many of the wells ran dry. The governments and developers never thought of laying out water pipelines when water was plentiful. Now many water districts in Parañaque are drawing semi-brown, with water becoming a very precious commodity for the thirsty people.

Forty-five percent of Parañaque has been without water for the last three decades. This means 93,122 households or 465,000 residents living in a number of subdivisions, including BF Homes, Sahud Village, Merwood, Archbishop's, BJC Sensville, South bay BF Commercial Center, portions of Barangays San Isidro and Sun Valley, South Triangle Subdivision, Goodwill, Blue II, Zarate Heights, United Parañaque V and Camella Homes. The last was developed by real estate magnate and now Interim President Manuel Villar.

The residents of these subdivisions are at the mercy of water haulers who charge exorbitant rates. They operate as a cartel and they have been fixing efforts to provide Mayor Jun Ver with water connections to these areas. It is suspected that the cartel is paying off certain local officials at the end of the day.

Why shouldn't it? Water delivery is big business in Parañaque, grossing almost P1.3 billion a year. The waterless residents pay the cartel's price of P180 per 1000 gallons (and, Mayor Ver's current rate is P17.50 per cubic meter, which the price of trucked water is P95.11 per cubic meter, or a big difference of P77.35). Thus, if water is delivered three times a week to each of the 93,122 households, the haulers collect P58,005,000 a week, or P1,202,865,768 a year, after deducting expenses for hauling and electricity for the deep wells, the haulers still make a killing.

Many of the deep wells are drying up, for example. BF Homes, the largest of the subdivisions in Parañaque, has 36 deep wells, but now only five are working on and off.

With the high cost of electricity, subdivisions pay a fortune to pump out water from deep wells. For example, Libanan pays P700,000 a month, for electricity consumed by its 12 deep wells. Many of the wells have dried up, however, as the water bodies steal water from Mayonlad pipes.

Parañaque city then is plenty of water for 93 percent of its households for 24 hrs. The two others 45 percent is asking for an equitable distribution of water, 12 hours for each side. But the haves are too selfish to share the water with their neighbors. The cartel of water haulers opposes it, too, for that would kill their goose laying golden eggs.

Mayonlad is not eager to distribute the water equitably, either. There is no profit to it. Treating water from the 55 percent of households who have water just for a day and distributing it to those who have none will not add one peso to its income. On the contrary, Mayonlad would spend millions of pesos to rehabilitate the 25-year-old pipelines and lay out new ones.

Publication of the MWSS's proposal to award the job of rehabilitating the 25-year-old pipelines and laying out new ones.

The water concessionaires don't want to share the jot of water with those who would get reduced water supplies. And homeowners' associations would also lose plenty of money from water delivery trucks. An association charges P6,000 a year for each water truck that enters the gating BF Homes.

The trustee of the MWSS is the Laguna Lake Bulk Water Project which will pump water from Laguna de Bay to add 300 million liters a day to meet the needs of the water concessionaires of Mayonlad. The MWSS is very slow, however. The project has been in the works since 2003, but it is still prequalifying bidders. Two PE-pino consortiums have already prequalified, but the MWSS is reportedly delaying the bidding to give new foreign corporations a chance to catch up. Both are encountering problems, however. Bonifil Isabel of Malaysia was the non-performing partner of YNN Consortium that won the bidding for the Manitoba power plant but failed to pay the down payment. The other is Hoh Yuk of Taiwan, whose two water projects in its home country failed water quality and quantity tests.

Nevertheless, the MWSS, by reasons of its own, is delaying the bidding to accommodate the late-comers from Mayonlad. Affluent partners of Gina Lopez claim that as long as prequalified Filipinos are partners do not have the technical expertise for the project. It is time such that has the technology and experience, he said, adding that the two firms gin the and boomer of people were close to Filipinos only.

Even if last marked, the project cannot deliver water to Parañaque until 2011 at the earliest. While waiting for the project to be completed, the waterless half of Parañaque is asking for relief. It pleads for the available water equitably to the new haters.

I think this is the fair thing to do.

Ground rules

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT THE ASSEMBLY'S charismatic Tony Blair is oozing oblivion. Last week, pummeled by his party and public opinion, he announced that he would resign by next year. It hasn't approved the entire, the backbone of the Labor Party, which would rather be resign immediately.

The reason for this is that it no longer be easy on as prime minister, the worse off the Labor Party becomes. Surveys show that Labor is losing its grip on voters, as small flanks to Blair who, like Margaret Thatcher before him, is seen as the heaviest juvenile. I know John Le Carre had much to say about Britain's fall from being to beggar after World War II, but I myself never thought Britain's leaders would allow themselves to look this pathetic: stooping to the level of Reagan and George W. whose Collective IQ's would make the dianetic reading of their individual IQs.

What has proved the receding ball to Blair's career apparently is a picture of him stooping down to a seated George W. seen after the 4-week haunting of Reykjavik and giving advice to someone who wasn't particularly minding him. A picture is worth a thousand words. In this case, it is worth more than a thousand votes—lost.

I mention the affairs of a country that might as well be located in another planet as far as most Filipinos are concerned simply because they have directly an something that affects us so vitally. Which is odd to a parliamentary system that Jose de Venecia's Media is Congress has been trying to foist on us. Blair's (impending) resignation shows why a parliamentary system works in a country like Britain and why it won't work in a country like ours.

First off, it needs real parties to work. A real party is one that advocates certain principles to which their members subscribe. You don't change principles like you change clothes. You don't switch parties like you switch bullet holes. I remember when I was chief of a Japanese political officer when I asked him if Japanese politicians have been known to switch parties. He was speechless; he could not grasp the concept. All he could say after a while was, "But if he did that, no one would vote for him."

By that definition alone, we do not have any political party, with the possible exception of the CPP, which you can desert only at risk of joining your comrades in the "killing fields." In this country, politicians join and leave parties with the ease with which they take up and abandon mistresses. The kind of political parties we have is indistinguishable from the tawdry parties kids have with the aid of love and fantasy. At least the kids never only themselves, the public have to cover the tattoos.

Indeed, in a country like Britain, you have a whole spectrum of political beliefs represented by the political parties. You even have Ian Paisley, a right-off from the Irish Republican Army among them. Of course, in this country we also have a party-list party like Bayan Muna. But the difference is that Ian Paisley's members are able to campaign freely while Bayan Muna's members are being murdered freely by Palparan's thugs.

A parliamentary system will not produce real parties, real parties will produce a parliamentary system. The only parliament now real parties will produce is the parliament of the people, or of those politicians for rather the Mafia we now have in Congress. Only worse. Much, much worse.

Second off, a parliamentary system requires sensitivity to public opinion. Blair is not the first prime minister to resign from adverse public opinion, and he won't be the last. Indeed, closer to home, not too long ago, Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin was resigned against his own party and called for new elections because of charges of corruption. The system is predicated on defeasible or sense of propriety, not on palpitation or the possession of a thick hide.

True, in a parliamentary system, you do not need to impeach a prime minister to kick him out, you just need a vote of no-confidence. For the opposite is just as true, if not truer. You will have absolutely no way of getting rid of someone else prime minister if his office continues to repose confidence in him notwithstanding that the public has long withdrawn it. Indeed, under that setting this also could—should—be him.

In the recent congressional bid shenani, that is the case in this country. GMA's office can always garner public opinion and move like gangsters to kill any bid to oust her. Thaksin was merely bounded by charges of corruption. GMA is bounded by charges of stealing the vote. Blair merely labors from a picture of him literally stooping down to Bush's level. GMA labors from a tape that shows her stooping down to Garci's level—or the other way around. I don't know who between them will find it more unflattering). The corrupt say Pardon and Blair were slipping to public esteem, the sin-eyes say GMA never had public esteem. Thaksin resigned and what is there to resign, but GMA is still there and threatens to rule forever.

A parliamentary system will not produce sensitivity to public opinion, sensitivity to public opinion will produce a parliamentary system. Contempt for public opinion will not produce a parliament, it will produce a tyranny.

Third off, a parliamentary system, like a presidential one, presupposes that votes will be counted. That is the reason real political parties worry about their votes, or rather, of prime ministers will drag them down as the polls. For pres-ses unpopular. But what if votes are not counted in the first place? What if parties, real or unreal, can just steal them in the dark daylight?

If that's the case—which it is today—what do real parties matter, or worse, of prime ministers or parliamentary system? It will be, as the Thais say, "vote-vote."

Time to get back to business

THE SUSPENSION OF THE DOHA ROUND OF World Trade Organization (WTO) talks came after a deeply disappointing. While the decision of representatives to the round remains in practice there has been a surrender to defensive lobbies digging in the status quo.

But the status quo is unsustainable. In agriculture, it presents the world's rich farmers the opportunity for the good to be a cost of some $200 billion a year to subsidies and consumers. In manufacturing, it denies poor countries from moving up the value chain as tariffs on them impose increase until the degree of protection.

The WTO is being developed countries but also repeatedly fails, impeding rapid growth in trade between them. In services, trade barriers sustain the sort of large cost quality and efficiency, slowing the growth of a sector that could make a huge contribution to competitiveness and employment.

Delaying the conclusion of the Doha Round jeopardizes certain rules and rules for the entire world economy, each and poor countries alike.

After 2001, the WTO's members were supposed to use global growth. With talk in the nations global expansion increasingly, this is the wrong time to let an obvious and assisted source of growth slip away. This is especially crucial for the United States, where slower global growth means increasing hardship.

Second, the perception of weakness and division in the WTO will make it the harder to create powerful and consistent multilateral, especially if the global economy slows. Many countries have shut this multilateral trading system—along with the Bretton Woods institutions—are originally created to avoid a repeat of the protectionism and competitive devaluations of the 1930s that deepened the Great Depression.

Third, trade reform can help nourish interest around more economic liberalization and can release to an orderly resolution of global imbal-

World View

Rodrigo de Rato and Paul Wolfowitz

ances. A successful Doha Round would thus complement the international collaborative efforts underway with IMF involvement, to solve many imbalances among the major economies.

Finally, the failure of the multilateral process will trigger an even more pronounced shift toward bilateral or regional free trade agreements (FTAs). FTAs contain substitute for multilateral liberalization. If properly designed, they can benefit their members, especially if combined with trade reforms for all trading partners. If designed badly, the size of such agreements—in terms of trade diversion, confusion and demands on limited administrative capacity—often results in economic harm. Most broadly, the growth of FTAs undermines the non-discrimination of the multilateral trading system, trade opportunities should be offered to all countries equally.

The multilateral trading system has the political support of the United States, which has been the biggest in the early 1990s, and has emerged with renewed vigor. We believe that it is still possible for the international community to get a good deal done. But a sense of urgency is needed.

What, concretely, should be done in order to restore the negotiations?

We consider that this political will to conclude debilitate measures and impasse with flexibility to reach a market-opening deal. The initiative will have to come from the top of the countries as to be made within each country's own open borders, and for help to be made available to those facing adjustment. All countries will have to give, an ministry can be expected to carry the burden alone.

Pro-trade forces can speak up, in the political process for example, it is untenable in richcountries that basic interest in restricting the benefits of exports of agriculture are effectively able to block access to open new markets for services and manufactures, which account for more than 80 percent of employment.

In developing countries, civil society voices could help raise the debate around the opportunities of global integration rather than emphasizing its dangers. The bottom line is that trade policies should be in the service of development. The Doha Round is an opportunity for countries to benefit from others' reforms as well as their own.

Meanwhile, there should be no backsliding on the progress already made, such as the duty-free quota-free access for exports of least developed countries. We encourage donors to follow through on their commitments to increase efficiency and for trade-related assistance. Developing countries to better their advantage of trade opportunities as a lever for growth. For our part, both the World Bank and the IMF are stepping up financial, technical and analytical tasks related to services.

Much has already been achieved in the negotiations, and an agreement of significant value is within reach. While the path back to active negotiating table is not an easy one, the obstacles are not insurmountable. All countries, but especially the richest, have a responsibility to better their contributions to the Doha Round. For the sake of their citizens, the global trading system and the world's poor, it is time to get back to business.

Rodrigo de Rato is managing director of the International Monetary Fund. Paul Wolfowitz is president of the World Bank.

The gods of war

I WAS WALKING ALONG THE STREET HERE IN ATHENS when caught by the picture of a guy on the station outside window of a parked van. I could almost feel the gun muscle mound between my eyes, until the threatening words: "Shoot to kill. Ask questions later."

I would have laughed at the ridiculous message, complete with an attention-grabbing picture, but the whole day I'd been bombarded by one of "9/11" memorial websites, so I found the sticker jarring, if not, mind-boggling—it reminder of the insane times we live in.

Pinoy Kasi

Michael L. Tan

When I first saw the sticker, I thought immediately of the "pro-gun" lobby which see stickers proclaiming themselves as "powerful responsible owners" of guns. I suspect the "shoot first" writer comes from some members of that lobby, people who have cited all permutations of gun-being potential and who believe we are not safe unless we have in our midst even the slightest suspicion that one is under attack.

We are such primitive and paranoid responses all around to. We have the ex-nation who coined the phrase into How "bully Bush Bowie five times says, driven by the idea of a holy war to be waged against the United States. The terrorists want to surround their fears based on what appears to be static limits, paranoically the United States, even if it means carrying the fear of fellow Muslims.

But each Sept. 11, we begin to see how the "shoot first" policy has been manipulated many times over the right for policy of "preemptive war" led by George W. Bush and his allies, promising even more violence. The Bushites and their ilk see in the recent day for Michael Bunted, former prime minister of Poland, describing the "mythic and literalist" in the US government's response to 9/11, with the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq. I thought of how this response has become a model for leaders throughout the world, with their thought of collateral damage. "All you have to do is name someone in Pakistan, or in the Philippines, or in government, premier of a bloody massacre in emergency warnings. Shoot first, bomb first, maybe ask a few questions later, but no need to wage war on the innocent.

Amid Age

The German philosopher Karl Jaspers named the term "Axial Age" to describe the period of history between 800 and 200 B.C. during which several of the world's greatest religions emerged: Confucianism and Taoism in China; Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism in India; monotheistic Judaism in Israel, and philosophical rationalism in Greece. "Axial" refers to the ground rule these religions played in the spiritual development of humanity, including religions that were to arise later, namely Christianity and Islam.

Historian and theologian Karen Armstrong has developed Jaspers' ideas of an Axial Age as renewed of her books, the latest being "The Great Transformation," which goes into an intensive analysis of this period, including the main messages of the sages of the period. Armstrong's latest book is "The Battle for God," and the premise who writes the bestselling. Published earlier this year, Armstrong's latest book is telling stuff and is said to have even made it to President George Bush's reading list. (Let's hope Bush eventually goes over it, and understand the book.)

Armstrong has important messages for us in our less-than-rational times that were similar to the Axial Age. She says that in our world gripped by fundamentalism, using her books and the many audiovisuals she has created.

Armstrong says that in the Axial Age sages who came up with similar messages of compassion and a rejection of violence. Religion was a way to transcend the ego, and at the core of this transcendence, each sage proposed his own version of the Golden Rule, of not doing unto others what you would not want done to do to you.

It seems that the process of transcending power was thus supplemented by the Golden Rule required practice, discipline and strength. Central to our previous emphasis on religion as a set of beliefs, Armstrong says the great religions become great precisely because of their emphasis on action, on turning the ego. Islam's requirements of daily prayer centered around Mecca, of fasting during the Ramadan, of the Hajj all made a series of practices, not of belief, in Armstrong's view "designed incrementally over the years to change your inner world."

Yahweh Yahweh

Armstrong points out that many of the founders of today's great religions, from Buddha to Christ and Muhammad, did not talk about their ideas as revelations from the skies that descend like parachutes from heaven, but as the way they themselves found, perhaps in reaction to the way other sought was in the name of a particular God, or gods, and beliefs in others did to them gods.

Today, we are plagued by various religious fundamentalisms, each declaring his own God to the only true one and a revelation of the Truth, and in the name of this God, the violence of one's own beliefs, one's own God, is often another manifestation.

Armstrong consistently emphasizes that it is not religion, but corrupt use, misused, religions are "sucked in" by the dynamics of the times. In our times, she contends, we have the Middle East with its long-standing conflicts between the Jews' Israelites, with the followers as such the other church, due to attack, and development and love. And there are wars in the Horn of Revelation, where Jesus is heading, mixing and destroying the existence of books books with great gusto.

Armstrong urges a more sympathetic view of fundamentalists, understanding how they could be people who are all very angry and frustrated in their own societies and the world. She also reminds us that these are secular forms of fundamentalism, usually political ideologies, that can be as destructive and violent as the worst excesses of the God-driven of Hitler and Pol Pot.

Comparisons can come almost naive in these times, but Armstrong's emphasis on compassion does work. Mohammed lived not in an era of tribal wars and managed enormous success but what we found violent solutions. Today, we monster jihad with Osama bin Laden and its violent. But jihad means "struggle" and violent wars are seen only as a "lesser jihad." In short, the greater jihad involves personal ethical struggle to be good, to be compassionate.

In "A History of God," Armstrong notes about how the Old Testament evokes a "jubilant Yahweh, the God of Armies," who is portrayed more like mayhem on a Chicago Bears' and his little companions. Armstrong says this Yahweh was born out of a "tribal deity" in the origins of the Israelites were after in a particular society from those parochial and done unto what desires.

Today, we need again to choose, between these blood-thirsty tribal gods of protagonists wars and the simple and compassionate wisdom of the Axial Age.

Two words every woman should know

TWO WORDS EVERY WOMAN SHOULD KNOW are "pap smear." The test refers to a screening test for cervical cancer which involves taking cells from the cervix (the opening of the uterus) using the simple or a tiny scrape slide, then sending the cervical specimen for examination to determine the presence of abnormal cancerous or precancerous cells.

The pap smear has been referred to as the "gold standard" for cervical cancer screening because even a "gold standard" possesses some problems. The number of collected (small) cervical cells may sometimes be simple, the lab work may not always be up to snuff, and, most commonly, the interpretation of the cervical cells may be subjective. Some studies have shown that as much as 50 percent of women who go for tests in accuracy may "never be rescanned with their test results." And because in poor countries there may not be enough follow-up and consultation, the risk for the disease can be unacceptably long, rescinding a woman's privacy and security.

In an effort to address the disadvantages of the pap exams, new technologies have been developed to improve its "sensitivity and specificity" (that is, the ability to detect the disease). Liquid-based pap exams has produced much more accurate and reliable results, and the only problem is that while the test for a pap smear has been brought down to reasonable levels (since prevention is beyond cheap), around 70,000 new pap exams, liquid-based pap exams still cost around $150 each, which is out of the price bracket for still expensive, and many countries from $1,000 per test. Still, there's the problem of waiting for the results from the lab.

When should a woman go for a pap smear or a liquid-based cytology? Doctors say that a woman should start having pap smears two years after she begins having sex or by age 18. A yearly pap smear is recommended for at least three years, and if results find them "normal" once, that is, no problems were found, you can start going for pap smears every two years after that.

For doctors may recommend going for a test more often if you have one or more of the following: passing history, you have given birth more than once, you started having sex early, you have had

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David

multiple partners, you have primed wives and reminder.

• • •

SUBSTANTIATED, a woman may choose to go for HPV DNA testing. The test determines the presence of HPV, the human papillomavirus, which is a "necessary cause" for cervical cancer, in a woman's genitals, and even indicates if the virus type is one of those found to be oncogenic or cancer-causing.

Experts say that the test for HPV is a very accurate indicator that sexually active men and women are bound to encounter at least once in their life, barring adults are expected to spontaneously overcome the infection within a year. What an HPV DNA test can determine is whether the virus is still present, and the cervical condition for not other two or three HPV oncogenic virus, a woman may need to be tested only at five-year intervals.

To the point, a distinct advantage of HPV DNA testing is that it can detect cervical cancer at an early stage, unlike a pap smear which can detect disease only when precancerous cells or lesions have developed. A disadvantage, though, is the cost involved. As of now, an HPV DNA test runs around P6,000, around 6 times more than a pap smear, and the test will have to prove cost-effective in the long run because of the reduced frequency of the tests. Some developed countries, in fact, are thinking of recommending HPV DNA testing as their basic cervical cancer screening part of her health protocol. Some health insurers and HMOs, in fact, include testing almost in other tests in the battery of tests included in their preventive check-up.

If one can afford it, yes your health provider and work out a schedule for either a pap smear or liquid-based cytology or an HPV DNA test. Your woman GP, GYN. I talked with and she had just gone for a combined pap smear and cervical-type liquid-based cytology to get HPV DNA test. Her

Empower the future with the power of youth.

We are pleased to inform all of you that the inaugural batch of participants to Asia Society and HSBC's Philippines 21 Young Leaders Forum have now been selected. The Forum will be held from 21 to 22 September 2008.

They will also formally represent our country at this years gathering of Asia's top young leaders at the Asia 21 Young Leaders Forum in Seoul, South Korea in November 2008.

1. Mr. David Bersales
2. Dr. Ms. Cosson De Ungria
3. Ms. Siri Delantar
4. Cong. Miguel Dominguez
5. Mayor Dennis Erdami
6. Mr. Ariel Hernandez
7. Mr. Martin Lopez
8. Ms. Triaa Manalastas
9. Ms. Lee Marasigan
10. Rep. Gilbert Remulla

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Nurses as canned exports then as collateral damage

LETTERS

I SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR COUNTRYMEN and fellow nurses (Dinero Jacinto et al.) who are now seeking help and badly need government assistance.

It's a shame that a blindsiding official intervened to hit the order suspending the recruitment agency which caused them misery. It is disgusting enough that our government is pushing fastest to leave the country without proving up a mechanism to help them or protect them abroad. With this recent controversy, the fact that our public officials readily lend themselves to serve as tools of exploitation—nurses (mind it! the victims are our countrywomen... gets on my nerves.

I therefore doubt if our government officials will act on the looming brutal leakage routine nurses work reasons and according to the best interest of the countryman and the nursing profession. I believe all they are thinking of is how they can make money out of nursing education and the nursing profession. Was I believe is reflected on Dante Jaig's stand on a "retake." He said that the "retained" status of the 37,000 board passers in the June 2006 nurse examination has put the Filipino nurses' competency in question in the international market. It clearly shows our officials' concern is on the marketability of Filipino nurses. However, he sees the retake as a "cleansing" process so that the Philippines will "be approved by the US government as a testing center for the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). The government's actions with respect to the nursing profession are all hinged on profitability. Isn't this a call for us to be watchful and critical?

In the past, we nurses were being exported like canned goods. The situation is getting worse: we are now considered merely as export capital, product and collateral damage.

—JOEL LUBAL, RENEE, RN,
allyson@bizyahoo.com

A gov't TV show that became 'Apihan ng Bayan'

NOBAN NG BAYAN' COULD HAVE BEEN an apt name for the "Kapihan ng Bayan" held on Gala Hotel by government media on the night of Ninoy Aquino's 25th death anniversary. It was shown on TV.

Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan and National Security chief Norberto Gonzales succeeded in stoking the tensions' smouldering resentment against the government as they opened (audio on the intelligence of their captive (captured?) audience.

Gonzales (the 'Mars as hostile reporter asked Palparan about the extrajudicial killings in the countryside, he replied that the killings have been many, even as he put on the "calibrating on his tour of duty in Mindoro and Samar). What check?

The record of human rights violations during his tour in the once peaceful provinces of the tomorrows and the gentle Mangyan could attest to. Since what the death squad did two years ago in the bodies of Eden Marcellana of Karapatan and Eddie Gumanoy, a farmer leader.

The police blotter to designation bears. Driven and Madrox, has a complete report on the gruesome murder of the two human rights activists from Manila.

Another incident was the murder of one Eddie Medrial, a truck driver in Bulan, Sorsogon, when military agents suspected of delivering a cause of rice in the vehicle. Another incident was the military raid on the Bubuja cattle ranch in Bataan town where the caretaker and three young workers were tortured.

The latter two incidents have not been reported by local or national media correspondents for fear of reprisals from the notorious military hit squads.

During the show, I distinctly heard Gonzales advising (reassuring?) a newspaperman who asked him about the government's "all-out war" against leftists: "My suggestion now is to speak softly."

If it was not an attempt at censorship, was it another threat?

—GUTIERREZ-OBO,
12 Guadalupe I. Jarosa St.,
Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro

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Marcos family still pushing hero's burial

By Cristina Arsaten
Reporter, Ilocos Norte

ARE THE MARCOSES GIVING up on a hero's burial for the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos?

The Marcos family is not saying just yet, but if the silence of former First Lady Imelda Marcos is an indication, then Marcos' remains, which have been lying inside a glass coffin at the family mausoleum, could be permanently buried in his hometown here.

The normally outspoken widow was surprisingly silent during the commemoration of the 89th birth anniversary of her husband on Sept. 11. She preferred to ignore the issue on the former president's burial preference as the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

Since 1993, when Marcos' body was flown to Ilocos Norte after he died in exile in Hawaii, Imelda has been urging every sitting president to accord her husband a state burial befitting of a former president and soldier.

Last year she said she would arrange an instant burial as long as the government gives them the green light. On Monday, however, she was tight-lipped when asked whether she would still pursue the plan.

"The President is beholden to several groups and major powers, but the truth will prevail," Imelda said after she was asked whether there were still negotiations with the Arroyo administration.

Hilltop in Batac

Even in her speech after the birthday celebrations, the widow gave no hint that she would still pursue a state burial.

Should the Marcoses decide on the site, Imelda is likely to have her husband buried on a hilltop in Batac, which she had toured and inspected in her previous visits. At one point, the Marcoses sent workers to clear the site of thick weeds and bushes.

But Imelda's son, Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., said the family had not given up demanding an honorable burial.

"It is not a request ... it is a demand that we exercise our right as a family of a former president, a former soldier, and a much decorated soldier," the governor said.

"That has been our position from the start, it remains that way," he added.

According to him, the Arroyo administration has shown no indication that it will grant a hero's burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

"We maintain that he should be buried [at the Libingan] but the national government has said otherwise. We will always maintain [that he has a right to a hero's burial], it is in the Constitution ... It is a right that is granted to us and nobody has given us a good reason why we should not exercise it," he said.

Disappointment

The somewhat-serious of the arrangement rarely turned out to be another year of disappointment for Ilocanos as they were not given a day to pause and celebrate the day in his memory.

"This hero's funeral, not even a holiday. What an did Marcos commit that we continue to deprive what is due him?" asked radio announcer Edgar Jacinto of dzVR-Kumbo Radyo in his program last week.

Pampanga refuses to lose art of 'kuriru' translation

By Russell Arzaler
Inquirer Clip

A BOOK ON THE KAPAMPANgan translation of the verse novel "Gloria" by Tagalog poet Jose Corazon de Jesus (or Huseng Batute) hopes to evoke among the Kapampangan people the popularity of "kuriru" as a form of entertainment and call attention to the "dying art" of translation into regional languages.

Robert Servigon, dean of the state U. Negosentro Center for Kapampangan Studies based at the Holy Angel University in Angeles City said even novels hailed the kuriru in Kapampangan, dorak in Tagalog and awrak in Spanish) used to be very popular among Kapampangan.

"In the early 20th century's decades of the dorrito were sold in front of churches, not candy magazines in convenients today. However, the World War II and the social unrest that followed, as well as the advent of radio and TV changed Kapampangan lifestyles and reading habits," Servigon said.

"With the Kapampangan comedy and Gremlins, as well as local dailies' newspapers and magazines gone, the kuriru has been the only Kapampangan reading fare to survive, but just barely," he said.

The 372-page book, also titled "Gloria," after the name of the female protagonist in De Jesus' novel, won the 2005 National Book Award given jointly by the Manila Critics Circle, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the National Book Development Board.

The book contains the original Tagalog text of the novel, its Kapampangan translation by poet Rowena Lumanlan Torrijos Arenas, author and professor at the Holy Angel University, and Professors Lina Dizon (Tarlac State University), Lourdes Vidal (Ateneo de Manila University) and Alma Peczon Pefianco (University of the Philippines).

Gloria's story

De Jesus' story begins with the discovery by a childless couple of an infant girl who is abandoned by her mother in the middle of a field.

Not shortly after the couple brings her home, she is abducted by a strange man and finds herself in adventure for the baby accidentally dropped and killed by the man's lover. Gloria is thus brought up by a couple who believe she is their child.

The twists and turns in Gloria's life continue to embellished. She finds happiness in the company of her mother and her childhood friend, Rober-

COVER of the Kapampangan translation of "Gloria" by Jose Corazon de Jesus

to, who saved her, first, from drowning and second, from being sexually abused by Teniente Abad Santos.

Intrigue and betrayal attended Gloria's village, killing her father and leaving Roberto dead. "Realizing that the same fate is in store for her father has beholden Roberto, Gloria, now an heiress to a fortune, gives away her inheritance and becomes a nun in Antipolo.

Roberto turns out to be also saved, after a long while of seeking out Gloria. Both her very ill inside the nunnery. The novel ends with Roberto, who is himself serious-ly ailing, and Gloria dying in a fight embrace.

Unexpected discovery

In his essay titled "Serendipity: Memories on My Mosqal," Reyes relates how unexpected his discovery of the Lessons manuscript was.

In the 1990s, he says, he used to take young retired diplomat (Ret.) Mosqal on his visits to the Department of Foreign Affairs. In an intermission with another friend missed a "handsome bolsa en hute [old-time beauty].

"I would often glance up to get a glimpse of (the) house that for me symbolized an era of more grace and elegance," he says.

Then one day he learned that the house was going to be demolished. He decided to look inside the house before it was leveled.

In his surprise, inside was being held the "equivalent of a garage sa'Sin sale, until nearly everything on the roadway from the grand staircase delicate architectures to intricate woodwork."

He bought a seventeenth-century model of the house and a few small furniture pieces. But his most important find was a battered suitcase containing the Lessons manuscript.

Inserted within its pages were letters from Hussing Batute, "Un poet ilustrado de 1920," to Gonzola, who turned out to be a member of the family that owned the main house.

Among them, Reyes, who saved photos, receipts, and other memorabilia covering the manuscript's find, sought the help of experts who could look over it. After eight years, he learned about the Center for Kapampangan Studies at HAU.

The collaboration between Reyes and the center resulted in a book-fair celebration Tagalog and Kapampangan as "expressions of the entire Filipino sensitivities."

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Across the NATION

Palparan's last hurrah: 200 more troops

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—MORE THAN 200 soldiers from Mindanao were deployed to the coastal towns of Bulacan and Pampanga last week, increasing the Army contingent there to 500 troops, Army officials confirmed on Tuesday.

The deployment of the 203 infantry battalion was among the last orders of retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, according to Maj. Gen. Jaime Lorena, Palparan's successor at the Army's 7th Infantry Division.

The troop movement came in the fourth month of the intensified anti-insurgency campaign in Central Luzon.

Lt. Col. Ernesto Mora, commander of the 3rd IB, said 300 more troops would be assigned to Bulacan in the next few weeks.

Mora said his soldiers, accustomed since arriving from Mindanao in June, would be absorbed by the Army's 7th Rizal Division, which is his overall chain head.

The task force—comprised of 500 troops from the 7th IB, 703rd Infantry Brigade, 72nd Infantry Battalion Company and Special Forces—has set up detachments in Meycauayan City, Calumpit, Hagonoy, Norzagaray, Bocaue and Obando (see map, according to Lt. Col. Angelo Reyes, the task force's outgoing commander).

Under Reyes, the task force has been blamed for at least 20 violent incidents, including the abduction of University of the Philippines student Sherlyn Cadapan and Karen Empeño in June, the abduction and murder of Bulacan farmleader Napoleon Ramilo in August and the illegal detention of priests and a host from a cooperative on Monday, according to the Bantalawang Lakas ng Kilusang Pagbabago sa Pilipinas (Bantala).

In Bulacan, the killing watchdog Karapatan has counted at least 28 victims of extra-judicial executions, five victims of enforced disappearances since Sept. 1, 2005.

Bran, who is set to rejoin the 702nd IB, said he would continue to attend hearings or cases filed by the witnesses and relatives.

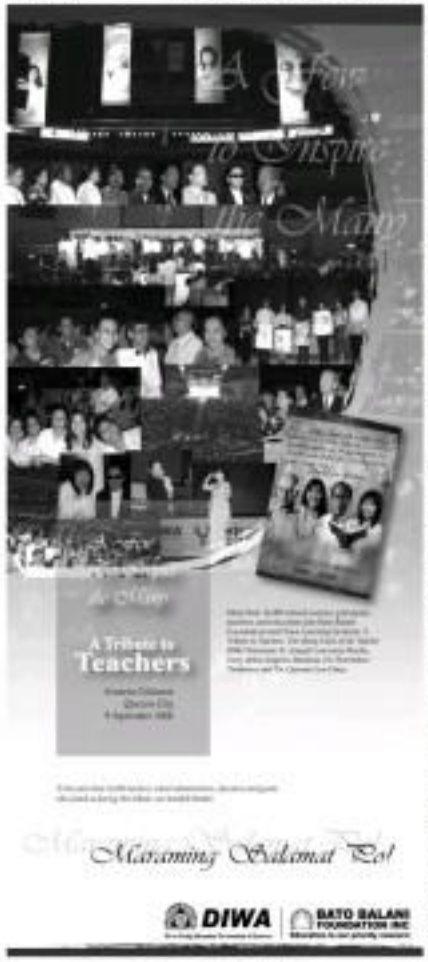
He said the task force would not be pulled out.

"[With Special Operations Teams] will be maintained there. It is only I who would be pulled out," he said.

BTS are soldiers grouped in nine or 12, specializing in counter-insurgency, intelligence gathering and civil-military operations.

Palparan deployed them not only to rural villages but also to urban areas suspected to be the source of support systems of the New People's Army and its front, the Bulacan Provincial Committee.

After until the task force would also hold positions in Meycauayan, Macabebe and Bocaue towns in Pampanga that are now Dejuanto, Pamacbi Dejan, Inquirer Central Luzon



Bad 'okoy' downs 22 children

BACOLOD CITY—Twenty-two elementary school pupils in Silay City 14.4 km south of here, were hospitalized yesterday due what could be a case of food poisoning.

Silay City Mayor Gabi Gaston said the 22, aged 12 to 14 and students of the Emilio Gaston Elementary School, bought "okoy," a patty made of melon seeds and shrimps, from their 12-year-old schoolmate between 7 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

Fresh after 11am of them vomited while others complained of dizziness and stomachaches.

They were brought to the Jose Leido Provincial Hospital, according to hospital chief Dr. Ma. Imelda Ledesma.

Ledesma said they gave dextrose to four of the 22 pupils because their blood pressure was low.

All of the 22 are out of danger and are being kept in the hospital for 12 hours for observation as tests show that they are all right, she said.

Before their classes started yesterday, the Grade 5 and 6 pupils thanked the "okoy" for Pt. Fault from Rizal Barrios, 32, who also suffered from stomach pains and dizziness.

The police brought in for questioning Jovelyn Salles, Pilar's mother, and Alma Capuz, 56, who sold the beans the ingredients used for the "okoy" to determine the cause of what was believed to be food poisoning.

Dr. Annabelle Ong, assistant city health officer, said the DOH would conduct a test on one of the "okoys" to determine what made the children ill.

Ong said she brought emergency medication when she received the call for help at the elementary school. Carla B. Hermo, Inquirer Visayas

Funds spent for 'cancelled' P160-M BCDA road contract

ABAYA

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC Zone—A supplemental contract for the 10.1-billion Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway Project (SCTEP) that was supposedly voided by the Bases Conversion Development Authority for lack of board approval is actually being implemented, an Inquirer source said.

The source, an official in Malacañang, furnished the Inquirer a copy of an "updated" list of foreign and Filipino consultants and personnel who were to be retained by newly hired under SCTEP's Supplemental Agreement No. 4.

The agreement called for extension of the services of the consulting firms—the Pacific Consultants International, Aznalan and Engineers International and Sigpaco Steel Co. Ltd. Joint Venture.

According to the source, this three-page document was "proof" that the BCDA had not really cancelled the consultancy services agreement with PCI-AGI-SIC.

The BCDA, the source said, has been distributing funds for salaries drawn either from the Japanese loan or the Philippine government counterpart funds. The list, which contained 57 names, did not state the payment schedule, though.

In a phone interview on Tuesday, BCDA president Nestor Abaya said the contract was cancelled in August and that no funds had been released to consultants.

The document that the Inquirer source furnished was merely an "annex" to the cancelled contract, he said.

"That was a proposed manning schedule, which should have been used as a basis for the amount of the contract. It should not be considered as a proof that the contract was consummated as if there were payments made to people," Abaya said.

A copy of the memo, signed by Abaya and joint venture project manager Emanuel Magno on April 7, showed the expatriates' staff to be getting "monthly rates" of between P1.2 million and P1.5 million, or nearly the original estimated.

On the other hand, Filipinos in the expatriate staff were receiving monthly rates of between P150,000 and P300,000.

The supplemental agreement was extending their services for up to eight or 11 months more.

With a total of 148.4 million yen, P86.6 million and P67.7 million, the memo set forth the provisions of additional compensation during the construction supervision stage, the presence of contractors in the selection of toll operating franchisees of toll user formula and agreement, and assistance in land survey and bilingual law to the BCDA.

Abaya earlier admitted committing an oversight when he signed the contract early in the predetermination of making BCDA officials in charge of the project.

Informed about the deficiencies of the agreement, specifically its lack of prior review and approval, Abaya said he called Magno in July about the need to cancel the contract for that reason. Magno, he said, agreed.

"This is an indication that the check and balance at BCDA are in place despite timid individuals. It was not because of the four-page report that this was cancelled," he said.

Abaya said a new Supplemental Agreement No. 4 was being worked because the contract expires on Sept. 30, or before the end of the month.

"This time, it will go through the requisite procedures and processes," he said.

Inquirer Visayas, Inquirer Central Luzon

Mayor hunted for radioman's slay

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—POLICE ARE HUNTING THE suspect of a radio reporter in Iriga, a suspect in the November 2000 murder of broadcaster Jaime "Bay" Bocalan.

The police launched the manhunt after a 14-member team from the Aklan Provincial Police Office and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group failed to arrest Mayor Alfredo "Fred" Marquez in his residence at the poblacion of Lezo on Monday, said Aklan provincial police director Supt. William Macaraeg.

Macaraeg said they have received reports of sightings of Marquez in Aklan but they have not found the mayor so far.

"We have now our evidences to convince him as a public official to hide from the law," Macaraeg told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

Judge Virgilio Pornan, presiding judge of the Aklan Regional Trial Court Branch 7, issued the arrest warrant dated Sept. 7 after he came up with a three-page order finding probable cause against Marquez for murder.

In his order, Pornan granted the prosecution's motion for early resolution of the motion to submit amended information.

Pornan noted that there was no legal obstacle against proceeding with the case because Associate Lawyers and Labor Court of Appeals (CA) has denied their petition for certiorari.

The judge also pointed out that there is no extraordinary order that prohibits the RTC from proceeding with the case.

Accusers's lawyers had filed the petition for certiorari in the CA questioning the resolution of Judge Lolita Arugay-Billiones, who formerly presided over the case, and asking for a restraining order of the case against Marquez.

Accusers was earlier charged with homicide for Bocalan's killing but after a reinvestigation, the Regional State Prosecutor's Office recommended the change to murder.

Billiones, however, reportedly welcomed the issuance of the arrest warrant.

"I am happy but I'm not fully satisfied because the one responsible for my husband's death is still free. I hope our authorities will not stop hunting him," Bocalan said in a telephone interview.

The mayor has not been arraigned nearly two years after the murder of Bocalan.

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Senate arrests chair of PCGG

To page A2

Supreme Court to stop the Senate from entering, in street order, saying the PCGG officials were cooked with immunity.

The senators said no one was above the law.

Last straw

Subio was the first official arrested since President Macapagal-Arroyo barred government officials from appearing at congressional inquiries without her consent.

Invoking the Arroyo's controversial order, other government officials, including those in the foreign affairs and labor departments and the Presidential Regulatory Commission, as well as military and police generals, have defied Senate summonses.

The Senate has been confronting various inquiries, such as those dealing with the alleged $394-million fraud, the $329-million fertilizer scam.

The PCGG officials' failure to attend Monday's Senate hearing into the reported financial losses of 10 government corporations apparently pushed the Senate to act.

Also ordered arrested were PCGG officials Benito Araneta, chair; Philip Bendel, director; VP; Manuel Andal, treasurer; Julio Jalandoni and Lutz Leibo, directors.

No resistance

The Senate based their positions on the information filed by the company with the Philippine Stock Exchange as of August 2006.

A Senate security team, led by Col. Jaime Dimaculi, arrived at the PCGG offices in Mandaluyong accompanied by around 12 other personnel.

They included at least two members of the PNP Special Action Force (SAF), who were wearing camouflage uniforms and carried long firearms.

Dimaculi shook hands with Subio and then showed him the warrant.

"We are here to serve you the warrant for contempt," Dimaculi told Subio.

"Sir I know, I saw it on TV," Subio said, referring to television news that he had been ordered arrested.

No bail

After looking at the warrant, Subio said: "OK, it will come. I shouldn't cooperate."

Subio told reporters: "I did not expect this. But I am going to obey. Glad to be the first."

He he presumed that the PCGG "has basis to say that the seven warrants were null and void from the beginning."

When reporters pointed out that only Subio was in the PCGG offices at the time, Dimaculi said his men would "go to the house" of the other commissioners, if needed.

"I was given an order to get them and detain them," Senate sergeant-at-arms Jose Balgalicia said on ANC television. "Unless I get a restraining order ... then to sending other that can stop me from getting them."

Yet still no senator fled from its prison where they are supposed to be, they are in hiding, it means they are fugitives. They are already hiding from the law."

After being shown the warrant, Subio boarded his PCGG service vehicle, a white Isuzu Crosswind, and followed the convoy of Dimaculi's men to the Senate.

Earlier, the team had the custody of the Senate's fresh exercise of its "coercive powers" against officials who had defied its summonses.

Last year, the Senate detained National Security Adviser Hermogenes Ebdane for refusing to divulge details of a lobbying contract with a US firm. Ebdane did and the Senate ordered his release five weeks later.

Supreme Court

The Senate ordered the arrest of Subio and the others for "direct contempt" of its committees on government corporations and public services.

In its petition for a temporary restraining order, the PCGG asked the court to quash the Senate's subpoenas and arrest orders and ramp the chamber "from conducting PCGG commissioners to testify and produce evidence before them."

It said the Senate had ignored the provisions of Executive Order No. 1 creating the PCGG which states that: "No member or staff of the Commission shall be required to testify or produce evidence in any judicial, legislative or administrative proceeding concerning matters within its official cognizance."

The PCGC petition said the executive order was a limitation on the powers of legislative inquiry.

"EO No. 1 is a law ... it is, therefore, binding upon all persons," it said. "Unless instituted, specifically the grave of unconstitutionality, which is clear, unequivocal and unconditional."

The petition was signed by commissioners Cesar Alvarez, Florin Hilbay and Antonio Nachura.

Former President Corazon Aquino named the executive order in a bid to protect the alleged ill-gotten wealth of Marcos and his cronies.

"We're not happy arresting people, but we have to uphold the law because nobody is above the law. No one is exempted here," Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the committee on government corporations, said in a briefing.

Senate power

"This should serve as an admonition to all. They should respect the processes of the country," he added.

Sen. Franklin Drilon agreed. "They should have realized that the Senate was prepared to assert its authority. This is a warning to the business sector that, when summons are issued by the Senate, any friendly advice to all of you is to heed the summons because this is part of the function of the legislature."

Drilon said that detaining the six officials was not a penalty but a means for the Senate to "enforce its rules and prohibition its function of requiring resource persons to appear before the Senate summonses."

The Senate inquiry dealt with the alleged anomalous issues of the Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Commission (POTC), Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) and PHC due to supposed irregularities in their operations by members of respective boards of directors.

The government owns 35 percent of PCSC, a firm formerly controlled by Ramon Ermita, and it resulted to 20 percent of Philcomsat, a wholly-owned subsidiary before the latter was privatized.

What Went Before

At a stormy closed-door meeting on May 4, Sen. Jose Potot Cortes, a founding shareholder of satellite technology pioneer Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat), slammed the board of its subsidiary, Philcomsat Holdings Corp. (PHC), for allegedly dissipating the firm's assets.

He asked the board to explain how it spent a substantial portion of the $71 billion that PHC had supposedly gotten from Philcomsat.

Cortes claimed the company was being robbed by outsiders.

PHC denies

PHC is 65 percent owned by Philcomsat. Both are owned by Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp., whose shares were repossessed in 1986 by the government on allegations they had been acquired through ill-gotten wealth.

PHC director Philip Ermita denied Cortes's allegations, saying the company's assets were intact. He said Philcomsat paid only P284.4 million to PHC, contrary to claims the bulk of PHC's P1-billion worth of assets was possessed by Philcomsat.

The Senate committee on government corporations and enterprises decided to conduct an inquiry into the alleged dissipation of PHC assets.

PCGG officials snubbed the May 11 hearing, invoking section 40 of Executive Order No. 1, which created the PCGG.

Zero budget

The court ordered Ermita to recommend a new budget for PCGG, which, in effect, would abolish the agency. Senators later backed Ermita's proposal.

On Monday, the Senate issued a show of authority by PCGG officials and PHC executives for "direct contempt." (Cyrill L. Bradshaw) (Inquirer file-

To page A2

cases of this, it has a 10 percent interest in PHC, a publicly listed corporation worth P4.33 billion.

Already repealed

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. assured that Subio would not invoke Section 4-B of Executive Order No. 1 since this had been repealed by the Constitution.

"In February 1986, we had no Congress, there were no legislative investigations," Arroyo said. "All Commissioners have the right to do ignore questions that he has been asked but which he refused to answer, invoking that provision in EO 1."

Subio initially requested blood pressure of 120/100 when he was taken to the Senate. After a series of tests, this rose to 140/100 and 160/100 before going down slightly to 140/90.

Drilon said he had no intention of keeping Subio detained for a long time and would immediately order him released if the six-hour limit have been brought to the Senate and recounted for.

The investigating committees have scheduled a hearing for Thursday.

Night at the clinic

Subio's physician, Dr. Francisco Rizal, last night recommended that the PCGC chair spend the night at the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital in view of his sustained blood pressure.

Subio insisted that he remain at the Senate.

Dr. Nilanni Rincia A., chief of the Senate medical-dental service, said Subio had indicated he preferred to stay at the Senate clinic.

Subio was accepted the night in one of the clinic's rooms for patients, furnished with two hospital beds and an electric fan. His daughter, Mrs. was with him as of last night, according to Rincia.

PCGC reports Pimentel, Manuel Narvasa, Chavalore G. Ayorbado and Inquirer Research

Second defense witness proved case for us, says prosecution

To page A2

by Sarwin said.

Explaining Nicole's initial denial to Bamberger, State Prosecutor Raoul Bonilla said it was natural for rape victims to deny the crime.

"That's very normal, very common, among rape victims—that they initially deny what happened to them. As a matter of fact, many rape victim keep silent up to this day," Addeo said in an interview after the hearing at Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150.

But the defense did not believe that the prosecution had scored a point.

Defense lawyer Ricardo Diaz said Nicole's denial and later admission were "two inconsistent statements."

"It is [a non-exculpatory] was not necessarily in favor of [the prosecution lawyers] because they only highlighted portion that were favorable to them ... though there were other portions we could have [pointed out]," Diaz said.

Calls, text messages

Bamberger, 33, a Swiss national in Zamboanga City from late September to December 2005, testified that he and Nicole exchanged through calls and text messages before and after Nov. 1, 2005, when the latter was allegedly raped inside a moving van on the Subic Bay Freeport.

According to Nicole, Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith raped her in the van at around 11:30 p.m. as his buddies—Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpenter—egged him on.

Bamberger said he did not know any of the accused.

Smith took the stand on Monday and said he had sex with Nicole but it was not rape but consensual sex.

The defense followed up on Smith's testimony with the presentation of Bamberger, who had submitted a sworn statement to US naval investigators detailing his communication with Nicole after the incident, particularly her initial denial of the reason of rape.

Bamberger said he and Nicole became close friends because he frequented her family's canteen at the Philippine military's Southern Command base in Zamboanga City. The canteen, where Nicole worked, was about a two-minute walk from Bamberger's camp.

"She was very friendly and was willing to help probably close to her 18 to our very close," he testified.

Rumors

Bamberger said he became friends toward the end of October 2005, a day before she left for a vacation.

Nicole and her two companions left Zamboanga City for a vacation in Olongapo City on the invitation of two fellow US servicemen who had become close family friends.

But Bamberger said he and Nicole kept in constant touch.

Early last November, Bamberger

THIS the shot of "Nicole" sounds the court was taken by Inquirer chief photographer Ervin Li. Sarmiento in June.

LIE HAVAN! rape suspect Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith leaves the courthouse after this hearing Monday.

testified, rumors began circulating that a Filipina woman had been raped by US Marines. He said that when he heard his friend was the woman involved, he decided to check with Nicole herself.

"Rumors were going around that it was [Nicole] who was involved in the incident we have been reading about in the papers, ok ... It was about US Marines who raped a national, sir," Bamberger said under direct examination by Justice Lawyers Benjamin Ramento.

Right across from him was Nicole, seated in the gallery's first row with her arms folded across her chest and looking directly at him.

"She said it was just a misperception. I believed her and never about my business ... Then early that morning, I received a message from her that said she needed me to pray for her," Bamberger continued.

When Ramento asked how Nicole's message made him feel, the soldier said: "I was very concerned."

Bamberger had not yet testified in Nicole's later admission when Perrasco posed the question: "What did you do, if any, of

To page A2

to the said she was raped?"

Breaking the tension, Ramento's fellow defense counsel, Francisco Rodrigo, asked: Judge Benjamin Pozon for a brief break.

The prosecution objected and insisted that Bamberger be allowed to answer, but Pozon granted Rodrigo's request.

After the recess, Ramento moved to withdraw the question. But Valdez told the judge that Bamberger had already begun to answer before the recess and that should be allowed to finish.

After a heated 15-minutes of arguments, Pozon ruled in favor of the prosecution.

Bamberger's answer: "When I received a call that the rumors were true, that she was the one raped, I was very worried. I asked her if she was OK.

"She said she was OK and that they used a condom, but she didn't know who they were."

A little curious'

Bamberger, however, told the court that "the use of a condom made me a little curious, and I wanted to ask more questions."

He said he also asked Nicole "why she wasn't kicking and screaming" while the American, whom she had earlier testified was Smith, was carrying her out of the Neptune bar.

But, at that point, Bamberger said, Nicole became quiet and asked him what he did not believe her. Shortly afterward, he said, he was informed by a superior that he should stop communicating with the complainant.

Bamberger also testified that he was "shocked" at Nicole's admission, and that she never used the word "rape" again in their communication.

During cross-examination, Valdez pointed out how much Bamberger had trusted Nicole and said the soldier had even asked her to buy some personal things for him (underwear). Bamberger because he could not leave camp.

"On the occasions that she ran some errands for you, did she error-done?" Valdez asked Bamberger, who simply said no.

Actual words'

Bamberger's testimony on direct examination echoed the summaries of his earlier statements of Nov. 8, 2005, to aid of the US Naval Criminal Investigative Service's inquiry into the rape accusation.

The prosecution had marked his statement as evidence.

Bamberger said the phrases quoting Nicole's text messages and calls to him "resembled [her] actual words" during their communications.

But he said: "Every time I received a text message, I deleted it automatically."

He also said he could not remember the exact dates of his communications with Nicole.

Now, it's Nicole's word against Smith's

To page A2

He went on to "spare" Nicole for at least two utterances she supposedly made inside the van: "Are you done?" and "I'm not a bitch."

Smith's description of the purported sex act was no graphic for prior.

But Nicole testified to being kissed, hugged and touched on the breasts by Smith, and of feeling him lying on top of her. He also testified about the alleged rape—or of any conversation taking place in the van.—were rehashed from her declaration two days on the stand starting on June 2.

Toward the end of Nicole's direct examination, Judge Benjamin Pozon asked her to describe how exactly she was kissed and touched. But she said she was too ashamed—"nahihiya ako"—to tell the court.

She also testified briefly to seeing "Eli"—Jane before the spoke of the kissing, etc.—but could not recall if their message to any particular place or time.

First meeting

Nicole said she first met Smith when he suddenly pulled her by the wrist as she attended dance floor of the restaurant-bar.

Days other companions, another US Marine named Christopher Mills, witnessed this encounter.

But Smith said his first meeting with Nicole took place not on the dance floor but in a hallway between that area and the toilets. He said he also thought that Nicole was "alone."

He said he and Nicole sat together at his table, talked, hissed and "playfully giggled," but that "she never had a single drink" while with him.

Nicole said she "suddenly found herself" dancing with somebody else (Smith). She said she felt so uneasy about it that she sought Mills' approval.

She said nothing about chasing a table with Smith.

Leaving the bar

Two very different versions of what came up on how Smith and Nicole left the bar and got into the van, the purported scene of the crime.

Nicole said somebody had asked her "to go out because it's hot" in the bar, and that this person turned her to do so despite her refusal to leave the place without her sister.

In his testimony, Smith said Nicole was "kinda upset" about him leaving to soon because of his duty to curfew.

He said Nicole drew willingly near with him and his buddies for a "short ride" to the pier, with her holding him by the shoulder as they made their way out of the crowd.

The Hummer said he opened the van door for her, and she stepped into the orbada.

Nicole's testimony was silent on how she got into the van. But early on in the trial, the prosecution presented as a witness a Neptune security guard who played together with Nicole on the night of the incident.

In his testimony, guard Gerald Mayor said he saw a "very drunk" Nicole being carried piggyback by Smith from the bar's entrance in to the van.

By her legs, arms

As in how Nicole emerged from the van after the purported rape, another prosecution witness—businessman Joseph Monghan—said he saw two Americans carrying Nicole by her legs and arms and then putting her down on the pier ground.

Monghan, who was at the van near the pier at the time, identified the two Americans as Smith and one of his companions, Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood.

The businessman also testified to seeing Nicole with her pants pulled down below her knees and with a condom dangling from her panties' garter.

By mid-Nicole managed to get up, but was "having balance and even hit the van several times while trying to pull her pants up."

It is held out that Nicole had difficulty pulling her pants up because it was over the wrong way, from side back, Monghan said.

Smith admitted to the use of a condom but was silent as to how it ended up tucked in Nicole's underwear.

He also said that:

- He asked to find a cab for Nicole, to no avail.
- Nicole was seated on the curb, with her pants pulled down below her knees and with a condom dangling from her panties' garter.

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NEWS

AFP accountant suspended

By Norman Bordadora

THE OMBUDSMAN YESTERDAY ORDERED THE PREVENtive suspension of the military's chief accountant for alleged dishonesty and other offenses in connection with asset acquisitions deemed disproportionate to his and his spouse's combined incomes.

Suspended for six months without pay while the investigation is going on was Generoso Reyes del Castillo, a colonel in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) of 31 years. He was given 10 days to file a counter-affidavit.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez said that despite declaring taxable sources of income apart from his P22,425 monthly salary, Del Castillo and his wife's personal and real/property acquisitions were still found to be higher than their combined incomes.

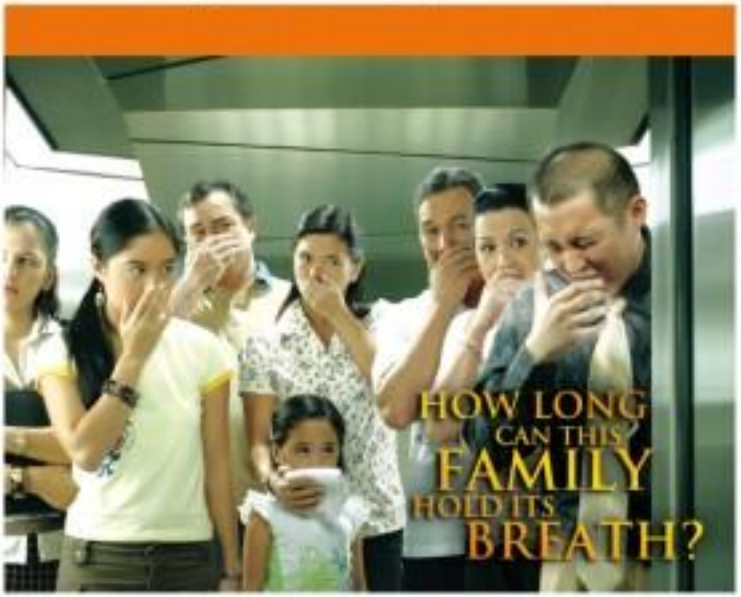
Ombudsman records showed that Del Castillo in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) from 1994 to 2004 declared a combined income of more than P10 million for himself and his wife while their family expenses in the same period totaled more than P9 million.

The Ombudsman learned, however, that in the same period, the Del Castillos managed to acquire real and personal properties worth more than P19.8 million.

Aside from real estate, which were not listed, the couple acquired five vehicles, including a P4-million Lincoln Navigator registered under Prybadth Pharma Philippines Inc., one of the corporations Del Castillo declared in his 2004 SALN, the Ombudsman said.

A check of the statements submitted by Prybadth to the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2003, however, showed the company had spent only P2.9 million for all the vehicles, P 40,000 less than the cost of the Navigator alone.

The other vehicles were a Mitsubishi Pajero worth P2.7 million, a Toyota Revo worth P979,000, a Mitsubishi Lancer worth P830,000 and a Honda sedan worth P200,000.



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SERVICEMAN Camp Aguinaldo. Does he look like a spy?

They're not spies—AFP

By Dona Pazzibugan

DENYING IT SENT "SPIES" TO CONGRESS, the military yesterday would only admit that its hush was that it did not coordinate with lawmakers before stealing two military men to document a House inquiry on summary executions last Monday.

Commodore Ariosto Tolentino, chief of the Armed Forces Civil Relations Service (CRS) maintained that airmen First Class Julius Jerdeza and Staff Sergeant Eldio Calayeay did not try to deceive anyone when they took videos and pictures of the hearing conducted by the House committee on human rights.

Mistaken for spies

Jerdeza and Calayeay, who were in plain clothes, were accosted by House security and detained for a couple of hours after lawmakers who were investigating the spate of killings of activists mistook them for agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"They're not spies. They don't know how to conduct intelligence operations. We in the CRS are not engaged in that," Tolentino said.

He described Jerdeza as their official cameraman and Calayeay as their official photographer.

Logbook record

Tolentino added that the two men, purportedly identified themselves as CRS personnel when they signed in the logbook upon entering the Batasan Complex.

"If they were intelligence agents, they should have used disguises and surveillance cameras," he said.

Tolentino faced reporters yesterday in Camp Aguinaldo to say that the two airmen "did not deceive anybody when its leadership swallowed the invitation to attend, except to say that a memorandum circular bars government and military officials from attending legislative inquiries without the President's consent."

Tolentino later allowed Inviron to speak to the reporters briefly over the phone.

The airman reiterated that he registered his name and office as "AFP-CRS" upon entering the Batasan complex, as well as the hearing venue, and was wearing a lanyard with the words "AFP-CRS" on the right side.

Jerdeza and Calayeay had been taking video and pictures of the proceedings for half an hour before members of the House security got suspicious of them.

Jerdeza immediately identified himself as a member of the AFP-CRS but Calayeay did not. They were only released after Tolentino called up a Jerdeza Manila Boy. Bienvenido Abante, the committee chair, sent apologized.

Public hearing

"I apologize if we touched on their sensitivities. There was no intention to make them. We respect them, even the party-list representatives," said Tolentino, who assumed the CRS top post only last month.

He admitted they did not ask permission from the House committee on documenting the proceedings but pointed out that "it was a public hearing anyway."

"Technically yes, we did not ask permission. But it has been done in the past, like in budget hearings. We were not barred from taking footage. It's an NDF that if it's a military-related hearing, we cover it," Tolentino said.

"Next time we will just write to him (Abante) to ask permission."

Aplus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Tell us your feedback: inquirer.net/name/aplus/letters to 2220 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: jc_ocampo@inquirer.com.ph

Taxman runs after actor Cesar Montano

Star ignored calls to present records, says BIR

By DJ Yap and Rayvel San Diego Jr.

THE TIME, IT'S ACTOR CESAR Montano's turn to face the taxmen.

Montano was charged yesterday by the Bureau of Internal Revenue for violating Section 255 of the Tax Reform Act of 1997.

A complaint filed in the Quezon City prosecutor's office said Montano—the president of movie outfit CM Films—was accused of failing to produce his firm's accounts books and other financial records for 2004.

The charge is similar to the one lodged against ABS-CBN executive vice president for entertainment Charo Santos-Concio over her alleged failure to present accounts records of Freestar Camp Assembly in records of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Santos-Concio is the president of Freestar, but this was denied by her husband Lizar Concio Jr. who said he heads the firm.

The BIR, represented by lawyers Philip Mario and Amado Pagsinigan, said a Letter of Authority was issued to Montano in June 20, 2005 requesting him to present CM's accounting records. The bureau said the records were needed to verify the company's tax liabilities for the year. The actor allegedly refused to comply with the order despite repeated follow-ups, it added.

As a result, a subpoena duces tecum was issued to Montano on May 14, ordering him to appear before the BIR's legal division with the documents on June 14. The subpoena was served on June 7.

Among the documents requested were the company's general and subsidiary ledger, sales invoices and official receipts, expense vouchers and schedule of sales or purchases. The actor, however, still failed to present the documents at the appointed time and date.

Bought for comment, Montano said the buyacos: 'Ha ha ha I am concerned, I have no problem with the BIR. I've always had the reputation of being a good taxpayer, that's why I was surprised when I was told about the case."

Accordingly to his manager, Nestor Jupitera, Montano was "the fourth biggest taxpayer among entertainers" in 2004.

The actor explained that he had assigned his accountant, Mona Paz, to prepare the documents required by the BIR as early as "two months ago."

Montano said the investigation was prompted by the bureau's allegation that CM Film's first production, the movie 'Vanaglory ni Satu" earned money.

"Everyone knows that it was a major flop because I lost P5 million. But we are trying to prove to the BIR that we didn't earn a single centavo from that movie. Wow, gusto ko tuloy ma-feel 'yung nararamdaman ni Cris (for having a child) for the first time because it's our first time to produce a film," he said.

"Vanaglory," which Montano produced, directed and starred in, had won awards from local and international groups—like the Unan and the Brussels Independent Film Festival.

"Perhaps that's why some people thought it made money. But unless you win awards, the cash price is very minimal. All you get are trophies," he clarified.

He said he had also heard rumors that his tax woes were "politically motivated."

"It was reported that I had been invited by (opposition) Sen. Panfilo Lacson (who is running for Manila mayor) to be his vice mayor. Maybe the administration feels threatened. The thing is, I am not yet sure if this will push through because I'll be busy making three movies, including the 'Sinsay' biopic, next year," Montano told the bureau.

RESCUED BIRD OF PREY
A Brahminy Kite eagle spreads its wings as though eager to take to the sky again after it was taken to the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife in Quezon City yesterday. The eagle was rescued by a couple who turned it over to park authorities for safekeeping. (JOEY AGUAL)

'Wild' rides suspended at Pasay amusement park

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PASAY CITY OFFICIALS YESTERDAY shut down the Wild River ride at Star City, an amusement park in Pasay City, after 11-year-old Rachel Gen Soto accidentally fell to her death Sunday night.

Silvio V. Arrabaya, head of the City Engineer's Office, said they conducted an inspection of the park attraction to determine whether or not it was safe.

He added that they will conduct another inspection tomorrow to check whether park officials have complied with safety measures recommended by city officials during yesterday's inspection. "If they comply with the requirements, then the ride could be reopened the following day," Arrabaya told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Meanwhile, charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide may be filed against the park management, said investigator Pfc Reynaldo Aguilar said. He noted that log boats on the Wild River ride do not have

Clues in fingerprint match

DID YOU KNOW

By Tarra V. Quismundo

POLICE ARE TURNING TO FORENSIC evidence to nail the killer of Malia Gilwery, the head of a publishing firm who was found dead in her villa a week ago.

As part of the "process of elimination," police have taken fingerprint samples from employees of Malia Gilwery Corp. which will be matched with those taken at the crime scene.

"We collected fingerprints from the employees, including Ilaiza Gutierrez (the victim's husband). We will compare these with the prints we obtained from the knife and other pieces of evidence," said Senior Insp. Gary Reyes, Criminal Investigation Division chief of the Makati police.

The body of Gutierrez, president of Malia Gilwery, was found inside a toilet on the third floor of her office on Rufino Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City last Wednesday.

Malia Gilwery publishes information technology magazines such as PC World Philippines and Computerworld.

Based on an autopsy conducted by the Southern Police District's forces of the Crime Operations Group, her throat had been slashed. She also had seven stab wounds in her chest, one five centimeters deep.

Her body was found by her husband.

In his statement to police, Ilaiza said he initially thought his wife had committed suicide. He added that he immediately checked if she had clothed her wounds. When he found no lacerations, he thought she could have slipped and bumped her head, as he noticed her eyes had sustained a bruise existing out of her chest. At this point, he told investigators, he pulled the knife out.

Reyes said fingerprint matching would help give investigators leads on the identity of her killer.

"Those without fingerprints will match those collected from the crime scene will be subjected to further investigation," he added.

Reyes had earlier said they will also look into the situation of the company. "We will conduct an in-depth study of the corporate situation, the status of the company to determine if there were financial problems," he had told the reporter.

METROBRIEFS

Escaped inmate yields to authorities

ONE OF THE FIVE men who escaped from the Northern Police District detention cell in Caloocan City on Monday gave himself up to authorities yesterday. Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, NPD director, said Romeo Villalon surrendered to Navotas police chief, Supt. Romulo Sapigao. Villalon was accompanied by his lawyer, Atty. Manuel Bonoan, who convinced him to turn himself in after he and four others removed one of the bars in the door of their cell and escaped. According to the policemen, the jail guards were sleeping when they left their cell in the middle of a strong downpour.

Nancy C. Carvajal

90 dengue cases reported in Muntinlupa

THE MUNTINLUPA City Health Office has recorded 90 cases of dengue from January to August this year. Of the total, only four deaths were reported. Most of the cases, according to city health officer Dr. Magdalena Mirano, were from Barangays Putatan and Sucat. Mirano, however, stressed that the DHO was doing its best to prevent a dengue outbreak, with health officials going around the city teaching residents dengue prevention tips. "The number of dengue cases usually goes up during the rainy season so we double our efforts at this point," she said. Local health officials were also closely coordinating with hospitals in the city, with the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine serving as the nerve center.

Jocelyn R. Uy

No water in Tondo, Navotas tomorrow

SOME areas of Tondo, Manila and Navotas will have no water for 10 hours—from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.— on Thursday, Sept. 14. The service interruption will take place while emergency repair work is being undertaken on a leaking 500-millimeter diameter pipe connection at Radial Road, near the Mel-Rio Bridge in Navotas. Areas that will be affected are Baler, Tondo and San Isidro Village in Navotas. Affected customers are advised to store water. They can also call 1626-or 4160000, the Maynilad Water hotline, or text Maynilad through SMART 2020626 for the water rationing schedule.

Catholic schools national congress set

THE 10,000 Tall Catholic Schools' Apostolate Associations (Faneaps) in cooperation with the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (Ceap), will hold its second national congress on Sept. 23 at the Father James B. Reuter S.J. Theater, St. Paul University in Quezon City. The theme of the congress is "Good Citizenship for National Transformation." Cardinal Jose Advincula, Imus bishop and Faneaps chairman, said the Catholic schools nationwide will gather to discuss issues facing the country today especially the role of good governance and good citizenship for national transformation. For inquiries, please call the Faneaps secretariat at 426-7262 or 426-5264.

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2	b. Core-form, Wound, Insulated, 115 / category 4 bushing (for HV power) 33 / Class 1, 2 Cores, BIL 650kV, 5 Taps 69 / 2.5 MVA Delta / Grounded Wye BOLD TEXT – BIDS	P 1,071,700.00
3	CONSULTANCY SERVICES (Lot No. 1 & 2) Lot No. 1 & 2	P 1,000,000.00
4	SPECIAL TOOLS (Lot No. 1 & 2)	P 1,000,000.00
5	SPECIAL TOOLS (Lot No. 1 & 2) a. Core Driven Coil Type Hydraulic Puller b. Coil Clamp Hydraulic Spacer c. Coil Clamp Hydraulic Spacer Extension Rod d. Core Packer Hydraulic Jack, 100 Metric Ton, 150 mm Stroke e. Coil Clamp Hydraulic Compressor, 100 Metric Ton, 150 mm Stroke	P 1,000,000.00

Interested bidders may request to submit their offer in accordance with the latest issue of their company profile to the BUELCO Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Bidders may submit their offer in accordance with the latest issue of their company profile and must be registered with DTI/SEC/CDA. A registration fee of Php1,000.00 is required from interested bidding entities and shall be non-refundable.

The bid shall be submitted on or before 2:00 p.m. of September 27, 2006 at the BUELCO Main Office, Malaybalay, Bukidnon. Opening of Offers and Proposals will be conducted in open session on September 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. in the presence of the bidders' representatives who wish to attend. Late bids shall be rejected. Bid documents shall be valid for 120 days from the date of bid opening. Delivery is to be made on or before 30 days after receipt of P.O.

BUELCO BAC reserves their right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality therein or accept the offer most advantageous to the Government of the Philippines and the BUELCO.

ATTY. BENEDICTO FERNANDO M.D.
Board Chairman

Noted:
ENGR. LEVI D. VELEZ
General Manager

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Center for Health Development West
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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
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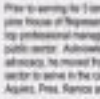
Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines
2006 National Convention

Dr. Onofre R. Pagsanghan is a teacher. He began teaching at the Ateneo de Manila High School in 1951, taught both English and Filipino for more than four decades, became one of the first awardees of Metrobank's Search for Outstanding Teachers in 1980, and continues to be recognized for his teaching not only by the Ateneo but by other national organizations as well.

Mr. Pepe, as his students fondly call him, has utilized and continues to utilize theatre as a means to teach not just English and Filipino, but Christian values as well. He began "teaching" theatre as moderator of the Ateneo High School Dramatics Society in 1956, managed its transition into Dulaang Sibol in 1980, and has won recognition as a playwright and director in the succeeding decades.



Hon. Jaali A. Lapus, Secretary of the Department of Education, heads the biggest Department, which accounts for about 20% of the entire Philippine bureaucracy. He also assumes the responsibility of addressing what is widely considered the ranking Education crisis in the country.

Prior to serving for 3 terms as a member of the Philippine House of Representatives (1998-2007), he was a top professional manager in the private and in the public sector. Acknowledged for his competency and advocacy, he moved from a lucrative life in the private sector to serve in the cabinets of 3 Presidents (Pres. Aquino, Pres. Ramos and Pres. Arroyo).

A CPA, MBA and DPA, Sec. Lapus was original core faculty of the Asian Institute of Management's Masters in Development Management Program. He has taught for many years at the Ateneo de Manila University, Miriam College and has conducted Executive Training Courses in Indonesia and Malaysia.

In Congress, Sec. Lapus exposed in 2002 the infamous multi-billion peso automatic payroll deductions scheme at the DECS which has adversely affected the net take home pay of some 300,000 public school teachers.

The Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), with a total membership of 1,220 member schools nationwide, annually hold its national convention to discuss issues and concerns of education in general and Philippine Catholic education in particular.

Through the years, the Convention has become an annual event which has become part and parcel of the investments' and association's life, cherished for the knowledge and insights gained, the experiences gone through and new places visited, friendships rekindled and strengthened, all coming together to a moment when one finds that she or he is not alone, but is part of this "body" founded by the mission of education and the identity of being part of a Catholic institution, which is mission embodies Christ.

But like previous CEAP conventions, the essential ingredient is the sharing—not just of the noted speakers and resource persons but of all who have come to participate in this gathering to the full extent possible. Those who are willing to express a problem or a solution, a challenge or a proposal, and even feelings of frustration and anger, and wishes for unity, peace and justice—all add up to rekindling the passion for learning and the commitment toward our mission—education for truth, learning for empowerment.

This year, the CEAP National Convention, with the theme *CEAP Diamond Years & Learning, Years of Love*, will gather over 2,000 delegates on Sept. 13-15 at the Manila Hotel. It aims to — RECALL the 65 years of pursuing its mission of providing Quality Catholic education in the youth, helping Mother Church in fulfilling its evangelical mission and participating in the work of social transformation and nation building; REJOICE in its triumphs and successes, in their thank those who inspired and helped them in their efforts; and RECOMMIT themselves to carry on their tasks with greater vigor and joy, and renew themselves to become better Catholic educators on the journey to the Third Millennium.

'Wild' ... From page A11

safety belts that could have prevented Jodee from falling.

But Star City counsel, Rodrigo Bunag said the ride was not designed to have seatbelts as "it is just a slow ride."

WORLDBRIEFS

Game eclipses 9/11 TV series

LOS ANGELES — For all the political furor it provoked before its broadcast, the debut of ABC's miniseries "The Path to 9/11" ended up eclipsed by a football game. Part one of the $40 million docudrama about events leading up to the Sept. 11 attacks averaged roughly 17 million viewers to rank second in the time period behind NBC's new "Sunday Night Football" broadcast, which drew nearly 20 million, on-target preliminary figures from Nielsen Media Research. Still, the nearly three-hour ABC broadcast marked a big ratings improvement over the network's previous miniseries on Sunday, "Pioneers of Television: Television Goes Hollywood," "Desperate Housewives" and "Grey's Anatomy," which aired 5.2 million viewers last week. Reuters

Havana summit opens

HAVANA — A summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) got under way in Havana Monday with retired attacks on the United States and its war and indifference in Iraq and Lebanon as the major program. The summit happens to coincide with the frightening pressure against Iran for the exercise of its sovereign right to develop civil nuclear for the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Fidel Castro and Venezuela's Hugo Chavez will miss opening events. The six-day gathering brings together leaders from about 50 developing nations, and high-level representatives from dozens more, including some of the most outspoken foes of the United States, such as Iran, North Korea, Venezuela and Syria. AFP

Ecuadorian wins jackpot

LISBON — An Ecuadorian woman on a visit to a casino near Lisbon won a car and the biggest prize ever awarded by a Portuguese casino, after betting just 50 cents, officials said Monday. Paula Sanz, who was visiting her sister Lorena Tyrrell with her Portuguese husband, inserted a the 0.50 cent coin into the machine when she hit the prize, the casino, which only had six coins in its jackpot, said in a statement. The couple, who live in the United States, said they would use the money to help Ossa's children from a previous marriage, especially her daughter who lives in the Ecuadorian capital Quito and who requires surgery. AFP

Palestinians agree to form unity gov't

GAZA CITY, PALESTINIAN LEADers agreed Monday to create a national unity government in a move that could end months of political and fiscal crisis and pave the way for a resumption of urgently needed Western aid.

President Mahmud Abbas will dissolve the current government within the next 48 hours and charge prime minister Ismail Haniya of the Islamic movement Hamas with forming a new cabinet, officials said after the deal was announced.

"President Abbas will be issuing a presidential decree within the next 48 hours to dismiss the current government and charge a new prime minister" to form a new cabinet, Abbas spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeina said.

"Current prime minister Ismail Haniya will be charged... with forming a national unity government," a senior official said on conditions of anonymity.

The 43-year old Haniya will have five weeks to form a new government once he is officially charged with doing so.

Abbas told reporters in Gaza City that he and rival Haniya had clinched a deal on forming a cabinet of unity government after weeks of tortuous talks.

"We have finished defining the political program of a national unity government, based on the national reconciliation document," Abbas said.

The document, agreed on by nearly all the Palestinian factions on June 27, implicitly recognizes Israel's right to exist.

"In the coming days, we will start the process of forming this new government and we appeal to our people to support our efforts," Abbas said.

Haniya said: "The agreement was anticipated because the will was real and honest in the greatest interest of the Palestinian people and to strengthen national unity and to protect (Palestinian) rights and principles." Hamas spokesperson Sami Abu Zuhri said that Hamas' signing up to the June document did not mean the Islamist movement was recognizing Israel. AFP

JUSTITIEBRUDE MONUMENT
The memorial to Oslo 2041, "To the Struggle Against World Terrorism," by Russian artist Zurab Tsereteli, is now during dedication ceremonies in Bayonne, N.J., Sept. 11. The 100-foot-tall bronze monument is a gift from Russia. →

Iran sets terms on enrichment suspension

VIENNA — EUROPEAN UNION NEGOTIATORS SET A LIST OF conditions in offering to consider a two-month suspension of uranium enrichment, but the United States on Monday welcomed progress made in weekend talks between the EU and Iran.

Top Iranian nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani met European foreign policy chief Javier Solana held talks here at the weekend to try to find a compromise to reopen talks on Iran's disputed nuclear program and avoid threatened UN sanctions.

In the closed-door meetings Iran "had a long list (of conditions) including a complete and total halt in activity at the UN Security Council...as also, Iran stopping short from going for sanctions and (Iran had) would have the right to continue fuel technology research," a Western diplomat said.

"It retain for this, Larijani said the Iranians 'would...consider...consider not actually carry out—a two month halt to enrichment. It was all very confusional," the diplomat said, in referring to talking from Solana.

The Iranian offer first revealed Sunday had raised hopes of a breakthrough in the international standoff over Iran's nuclear ambitions but the diplomat said that Larijani's conditions dashed those hopes.

But the conditions are "unacceptable" to the six world powers who have offered Iran talks on a package of trade and other benefits because they would guarantee Tehran the right to sensitive nuclear fuel work and process it from any punitive UN action, said the diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous due to the confidentiality of the information.

Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States want a full and unconditional suspension of uranium enrichment to start the negotiations, the diplomat said.

Enrichment is the strategic process which makes nuclear reactor fuel but also atom bomb material.

The United States and European countries fear Iran is trying to develop a nuclear bomb, but Tehran says its program aims only to produce energy. AFP

Japan's new prince named Hisahito

TOKYO — JAPAN'S NEW PRINCE, THE FIRST male heir in the Chrysanthemum Throne in his turn in four decades, on Sunday was named Hisahito—meaning "virtuous, calm and everlasting," the Imperial Household Agency announced.

The infant, who was born Sept. 6 and is third in line to be the country's emperor, was named Hisahito a few minutes ceremony following age-old imperial rites at the Tokyo hospital where the prince and his mother, Princess Kiko, who turned 40 the day before, are still recovering.

Hisahito's name, which uses the Chinese characters for "virtuous, calm and everlasting," was chosen by his parents, palace spokeswoman Yoko Hirata said. AP

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The WORLD

Edited by Lorenzo B. Bueza

US Embassy in Syria attacked

DAMASCUS—FOUR GUNMEN ATTACKED THE US Embassy in Damascus Tuesday, but failed to harm any American diplomats before all four were killed, a Syrian official said.

Syrian state television said the attackers had tried to detonate a car bomb in front of the embassy but had failed.

The Syrian official said all US diplomats were safe. A witness said at least one Syrian security guard had been killed by the attackers, who had been shooting sporadically from a car parked outside the embassy in the capital's Abu Rummaneh district.

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Syrian Information Minister Mohsen Bilal Abdel Majid told Syrian television in Washington was under way.

In Washington, State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack confirmed there had been an attack. "We can confirm reports of an attack on our embassy in Damascus by unknown assailants. The threat appears to be over," he said.

Syrian security forces sealed off the Rawda area after heavy gunfire erupted. Ambulances and fire fighting units rushed to the scene, sirens wailing. The district also houses security installations and the homes of top government officials.

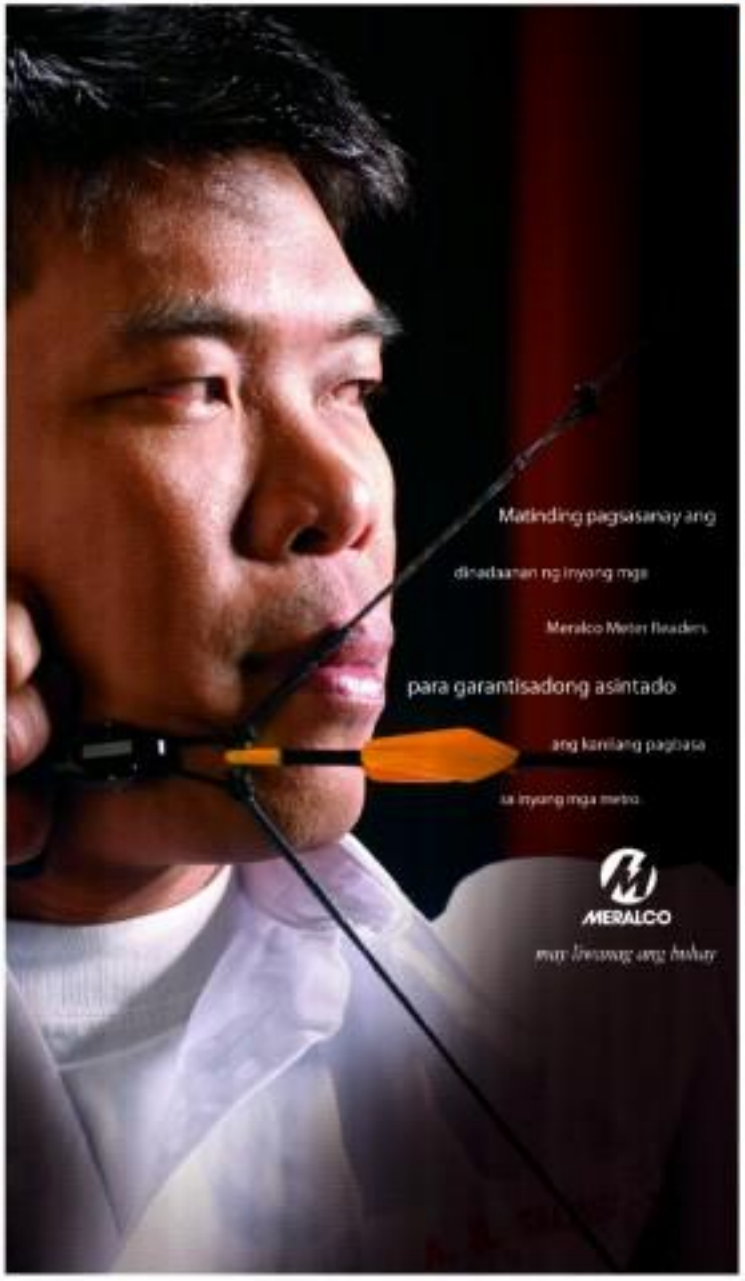
There was no word on the identity of the attackers, but Syria has been clashed with Islamist militants several times in recent months, often during raids in urban areas.

In June, four gunmen and a suicide bomber were killed when Syrian security forces said they had foiled an attack by Islamist militants near the premises of state-run television in Damascus.

US-Syrian relations are very tense. The United States recalled its ambassador from Syria in February 2005, suspending "profound and tragic" over the assassination of Lebanon's former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri in Beirut. Washington blames Syria for that killing. Damascus denies any involvement.

Reuters

A BURNT-OUT car is seen near the US embassy in Damascus, Tuesday, Sept. 12 in this image made from television.



Meralco proudly presents The Price is Light. An entertaining and unique game show that aims to answer the public's questions about Meralco's services. The audience will be educated on everything from how to read their meters to every detail about their monthly billing. The game show, which will feature several ABS-CBN stars as participants will be part of a day-long list of activities that will tour different SM malls. Contestants will also be selected from the public. They get to play with their favorite celebrity and win prizes courtesy of Meralco.

Aside from the game proper, there will also be several booths where the public can learn about meter-reading and bill computation. They will also get the chance to find out which of their appliances impact on their bill the most through Meralco's Appliance Calculator and Consumption Estimator.

The Price is Light will be in the following malls on the following dates:

SM Fairview
September 23, 2006

SM Sucat
October 1, 2006

SM North Edsa
October 7, 2006

SM Bacoor
October 14, 2006

SM Megamall*
October 21, 2006

SM Marilao
October 29, 2006

*Tentative venue

WHAT'S INSIDE
Jarencio most confident among Final 4 coaches /A27

SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa

Real Madrid opens versus Lyon anew /A27

Red Lions, Dolphins go for jugular

Top Final 4 fives a win away from NCAA Finals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FOR THE PAST NINE SEASONS, San Beda has longed to get back in position to end a title drought. Philippine Christian U, on the other hand, hopes to return to the finals after missing out a year ago.

GAMES TODAY
(Arranta Coliseum)
11 a.m.—JUC-Ff vs San Beda (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Mapua vs San Sebastian (Jrs)
4 p.m.—Lyceum-Ff vs PCU (Jrs)
6 p.m.—PCU vs San Beda (Jrs)

Both are within a win of achieving just that as they try to finish off separate semifinals blocks without having to use a twice-to-beat semifinal advantage in the NCAA men's basketball Final Four at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Red Lions, enjoying a deep, competitive roster and a coaching staff that knows just what to do, are highly favored to finish amidst Mapua by the 2 p.m. match.

With top MVP favorite Samuel Dion and reliable point makers Yousif Aljamal, Borgy Bautista, and Hugh Mbutu, the Red Lions topped the eliminations with a 13-1 record, finishing it with a total 12-game winning streak.

They know too well that chances like this come few (or none) that Beda's won the championship in a long while.

That's what co-Mapua coach Atanacio Lim's mind all weekend long as they brace for the all-too-crucial match.

"We are thinking of impacting two Chinese players from the mainland to step foot [in] Beda," Lim said jokingly when asked to name their choices. "But seriously, we have made adjustments to at least level up to their height advantage."

A different drama takes shape when PCU squares off with beleaguered defending champion Lyceum in the 4 p.m. game.

The Dolphins will [at] only try to complete their vengeance over the same clan cleated them the title last year. They will also ride on the crest of a four-game winning run capped by a 67-62 win over the Knights.

Cage body's name, members up next

By Marcus R. Carullo

NOW FOR THE HARDER PART.

The constitution and by-laws of the new basketball organization were finalized yesterday, and there are one requirements to enumerate any problems when forwarded for registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission today.

Left to be finalized, aside from the name, however, is the list of the first members of the corporation, which the Basketball Association of the Philippines and Philippine Basketball hope to come up with at the soonest possible time.

The new members will make up the new National Congress, which has to be convened in the next few days to approve the new documents before it is passed to the Philippine Olympic Committee for recognition.

A source privy to the meetings of the three-man panel composed of the BAP's Joey Lina, PBA's Bernie Atienza and television tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan yesterday said that coming up with the final list of members of the corporation could take some time.

The BAP has to tie for a total of 66 members, while PB only has 22 and could be severely outvoted in the Congress, which will determine the new group's board of trustees, and ultimately, its first set of officers.

Speaking on condition that he not be identified, the source said that "becoming a member of the new group will take a lot of scrutiny" to avoid duplicitous representation.

The panel reconvened no further to the completion of the provisions in the constitution in their meeting yesterday morning and all three members agreed that a neutral lawyer will be tasked to handle the job of identifying the leaders [of] groups that are "legitimate or otherwise."

THE ES-SCENTS OF EVERY MAN

Going Against the Flow

Do you enjoy doing things for a cause...like giving a free strip show? Or perhaps you love to love because you've discovered that it hurts...real good? Or maybe you have a strong belief that men should always come first?

Quirks. Every man has it. But not everyone has the guts to show it. Only those who dare to defy the norm are able to let their true character surface. A character that defines the very essence of a man. A character that reveals a man's ISM.

What's an ISM?

An ISM is a personal movement, a person's definitive core. It is a representation of ideals, beliefs, aspirations, a personal stand on issues about life and society.

Hull-ism n.
A style wherein men of power and confidence find a renewed passion for living.

An ISM is an intelligent expression of a person's uniqueness, a fulfillment of one's need to stand out, rather than conform to what has already been established by society.

An ISM is an acquired taste and an art—an expression of individuality. It is open-minded and free-spirited but is never without sophistication.

What's your ISM?

As a celebration of individuality and free expression, three new fragrances have been formulated specifically for the go-getting, confident, and artistic mavericks, namely, Hull, Miro, and Deauville. Each fragrance embodies individual traits and characteristics of every unique man.

Hull, which means eight in French, symbolizes full-embodiment. A precious and rich fragrance with fresh spicy notes of grapefruit, bergamot, nutmeg, bois rose, jasmine, cedar wood, and sandalwood, Hull appeals to the accomplished, confident, highly-educated men who possesses power and a decisive attitude.

Miro-ism n.
A style wherein one inspires creativity through free expression, dynamism, and the arts.

Inspired by the Spanish surrealist painter, Joan Miro, Miro is reminiscent of the aroma of freshly cut wood and radiant energy. With notes of lemon, bergamot, tangerine, lavender, violet, galbanum, cedar wood, vetiver, and moss, Miro appeals to the gregarious trendsetter and fashion icon.

Derived from the posh city of Deauville in the northern part of France, Deauville is the freshest of the three eau extremes. Light and clean, Deauville is a blend of bergamot, tangerine, tea, cedar wood, and musk. This delicate fragrance appeals to the man who values simplicity, cleanliness, neatness, innocence, and purity.

Deauville-ism n.
A refreshed state wherein one inspires beauty through purity, innocence, and freshness.

ISM is made in France by the House of Charabot, the 200-year-old perfumery house with a legendary reputation for producing the most prized fragrances in the world. Carefully blended using the finest raw ingredients from the world's fragrance capital, Grasse in France, ISM is the unique fragrance made for the unique man. And you can find one at any Rustan's Essenses outlet.

PETRON XTRA UNLEADED
Go for the Xtra miles.
1114 km
the record has been broken.
1400* km
It's time you set your own record.

Bata won't be caught selling bogus patis

FENCED-IN? Sportswoman and blood expert Gene remains his remained perplexed after why stars shuddered to shoot a short relaxation segment on the Philippine Amateur Boxing Association's says all they needed were brief footage, mainly on the finishing and most visceral needs of his art, that, to fully promote the sport. They were the real selling they did not appear to pay PAGBOX at least for use of the venue.)

* * *

INSIDE THE SMITH FOREIGN HAND? Bargains SP betting pool, Elton "Bata" Bautista can't sell a tube of toothpaste even if the charming fellow's love earlier his unwatermarked bills stroke.

It's a no-contest between the two sports heroes when it comes to endorsing products.

Bargain is undisputed King of the Cons, married DR.

But have you heard the commercials that Bata Reyes is so great, if not greater than Bargain?

Well, Bata is dubbed as greatest.

This should actually be a non-issue: not only is Mr. Muhammad, whom Pacquiao is regularly bonded and honored upon returning from high-stage campaigns.

* * *

HK, Montano in the outstanding Nikko favorites.

But while President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was busy defending her discredited human rights record during last Encenitas sojourn, Bata Reyes quarrelled with hometown rival Bargain to cop his American foe and win the International Pool Tour 10th World Open 8-Ball championship at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, Nevada, early Monday.

Reyes bagged what's considered pool's biggest prize money—$500,000 (about P22.5-million).

Pacquiao, who got $2 million when he labored for 8 rounds last January, and is due to pick $3 million in a widely watched match against his Mexican rival in the WBC flyweight world title IBF super bantamweight championships.

Reyes ended the three-staging of the International Billiard Championship in Japan last year. He also won the five-tournament of the IPT, called "King of the Hill," last year.

What Pacquiao currently holds is the WBC International super featherweight belt, officially recognizing him as the best ranking boxers ranked 11th or lower by the world body.

With his charming mouth, Pacquiao should be a future Hall of Famer.

But Bata Reyes has been installed in the Billiards Congress of America Hall of Fame recently at 2002.

Pacquiao now is coming back from defeat, and his shining stoppage of Morales early this year had rumored such stunning up, up high.

Bata Reyes? Well, his super-win triumph had fallen short on dominance all for the simple fact that, unlike Pacquiao, Reyes has been involved in the Olympics.

Reyes had seldom frustrated the great expectations of his adoring home fans.

* * *

All told, Pacquiao appears ahead in the semifinal race.

In fact, there was hardly a faint waterdrop of a big settlement, much more a dicker or tape parade or motorcade for Reyes scheduled return today.

But knowing Bata, he's too humble to accept the dilatory and lenient of grandiosity and glitz that he does deserving.

Still, it cannot be helped, for those who wanted to truly weigh merits, whether those should be a contest between a magician and a master.

Should there be a comparison between billiards and a master.

Well, Bata Reyes is very behind in the endorsement race.

But, unlike the other superstar, he doesn't have to rely on magic to sell cheap vinegar and paint (his cause) that's nothing but salt and colored soda ash.

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

Yuvashree is undisputed; the richest Filipino athlete.

Bata's feat, however, has also affirmed this great thespianguide as a multibillionaire sports superstar.

* * *

Now this comes, it's case is should be called, is not all about money, the color of the US dollar.

Just like Pacquiao, Bata has a strongfield on nationality, a distinction he gained when he topped the World Pool Championship the first time the event was televised to the world on television in 1997.

Pacquiao has had two legs world titles, one bigger than of P10,000.

Gaquias gained the annual records for the third straight season. Here a no-drive win Marion Anthony Carrino, who was ruled to pay P7,500. The rest of the offenders were fined P5,000 each.

"It is our objective to ensure not only the success of the event but to make sure to use this to a meaningful way," Balicasan the players.

Also fined were Jose Miguel Cuenco (eight ace) Cristian Brita, Jessie Mendiburual, Rodney Santos, Eddie Stevens, Emmanuel Ashland, Ben Mittal and Mike Holmer of Giraffes, Coco Calvo Will Antonio and Johnny Abrahamian; Harvey Carey Art Teodoro and Mac Cardenas of Talk 'N' Text; Alaska's Tony dela Cruz and Beyond Boundaries, and Dennis Espino and Wilfred Omobono of San Lucas Realty.

ERLAI Hard Hitter

CAGUIOA Fined

Coaches junk 3-point dunk

By Jaco Navarro

COACHES IN THE PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL Association have worked rather mish to the end-of-the-**dunk rule** year or term-wise.

PBA commissioner Noli Eala found this out when majority of the coaches thumbed down the implementation of the "three-point dunk" following a long-distance downside on the subject.

"We decided to defer the implementation of the three-point dunk for further study," said Eala. "At least now, I'm glad that the coaches opened their minds to it."

Except for the 12 in the forward, all of the coaches the proposed rule as counter-productive to the international brand of basketball slowly being adopted by the league.

Eala said the proposed measure would be revised in the All-Star Weekend next season and during the 2007 pre-season tournament.

Also passed during the consultation were Chot Reyes of San Miguel, Jun Lyatco Reyes, Derrick Chua, Ryan Gregorio of Purefoods, Red Bull's Yeng Guiao, Jong Uichico of Barangay Ginebra, Alaska's Tim Cone and Bisky Piolo of Coca-Cola.

Talk 'N Text member Derrick Pumaren is in South Korea with the Pinoy five, who are playing a series of tune-up games. Without coach Jun Antonio also declined to attend but was represented by his deputies Alex Compton and Calvo Garcia.

Meanwhile, Eala dropped a total of P102,500 on 19 players for their failure to attend the 2006 PBA Annual Awards last July 12.

Absent frail of the delinquents came from Barangay Ginebra with top scorer Mark Caguioa

SPORTSWATCH

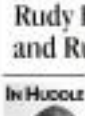
SOM-Baystown rules Milo Little Olympics

THE BAYSTOWN-SOM, WESTERN MANILA BASED TEAM, IS A YEAR-old SOM-Goldenrod to bag the high school basketball title of the Milo Little Olympics 12-and-under division, defeating Team Manila, 25-19, 25-19, 25-19.

Baystown's Jose Miguel Cuenco and Dominique Fernandez delivered 7 goal rushes between them to lead the Little Olympics' SOM Baystown team to 3-1 gold, 3-1 silver and 3-1 bronze medals. The team is still being hosted P40,000 goods of sports equipment when it claims its trophy during the awards rites set 6 p.m. tomorrow at the Century Ballroom of the Century Park Hotel in Manila. The SOM-Baystown finished second at 3-1 (3-1) followed by Jose Abad Santos High School (3-1-1) in the 10th edition of the competition organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop. San Diego Elementary School consecutively defended its grade school title after posting a 16-7 advantage.

Shipping Water (12-1) is scheduled to meet Cebu Chamber of Commerce's Lancaster School Mandaluyong (9-3-1). Philippine Sea Pro 10 High schools are Freedom Hall (13-0) vs. Dr. Cruz Academy of Lubao Pampanga (9-7-1), La Trinidad Academy (11-3-1), San Francisco HS (12-4-1), Mariano College (12-4), Metro Manila College (12-5-1), and Mabolo School (11-3-1). Other elementary competitors Tiwala Private Academy (8-5-1), Mabolo Elementary (8-5-1), Mabolo Pro 10 Elementary (8-5-1), Tabernacle of Hope Elementary

Of 'balik'-PBA Rudy Hatfield and Rufa Mae



IN HUDDLE

Bernie Cayles

AF3 drivers gear up for pivotal 6 rounds

UNPREDICTABLE TRACK CONDITIONS SEE RACES Four drivers resuming their bids for slots for overall honors.

Expect all these and more in what promises to be pivotal Rounds 10 to 15 of the Asian Formula Three Series on Sept. 16-23 as the demanding Festral International Circuit in Bogor, Indonesia.

"It's rainy season in Indonesia, making race conditions unpredictable," AF3 chair SUKMA said in yesterday's PBA Presscon at the Peralatan Restaurant in Manila. We also have six racer that will demand a lot from our riders. And there are four drivers jockeying for the overall title. The Indonesia stop could be the turning point."

Joining Pela in the session sponsored by Negros were drivers Tyson Ig, Rajon Hizon, Michale Rodriguez and Gaby dela Merced. Pela's son, Dado, is out of the country.

AF3 organizers were forced to postpone Rounds 10 to 12 of the series last month due to unforeseen circumstances. This means next month's event will be hectic, with two races each on Sept. 21, 22 and 23.

Race enthusiasts can log on to www.asianf3.net for regular updates.

"On an average, the riders will be out on the track for around 1/2 hours. This will be an added challenge for them. To stay in top physical and mental shape for three straight days," Pela said.

Hizon, the first AF3 champion and driving for Multi Utila Electric (MUE), echoed Pela's sentiments, saying: "This is the first time we will have six races in one weekend. This will be a real challenge for us drivers."

Mizuno added that whoever emerges on top in the Indonesia leg would gain the inside track for the overall title when the AF3 series winds up at the Batangas Racing Circuit on Nov. 4.

"But just who will that be among Ali Ardiono, Jamie Whitelaw, Tyson Ig and Dillon Bastidas is anybody's guess," he joked.

Carrying the colors of Asian Racing, Ardiono is also showing the way with 117 points after nine races, followed by fellow Asian Wildcat of JK Bhattacharya with 107, just two points ahead of third-running Ig of Speedilock Asia. MR. Whitelaw's teammate, Bastidas, is running fourth with 94 points.

JERRY Cruz of the UST Tigers and Doug Kramer of the Ateneo Blue Eagles (behind) are key figures for their squads. ALEJO MADRIGAL

Jarencio most confident among Final 4 coaches

By Mayong B. Castillo

OF ALL THE COACHES IN THE UNIVERSITY Athletic Association of the Philippines' Final Four, Santo Tomas' Pido Jarencio, a rookie mentor whose mostly inexperience Tigers made the semifinals via a five-win, tallied with the most confidence.

"I have no concerns, for as long as my team is 100 percent, we have a great chance," Jarencio said yesterday while in the company of Ateneo's Norman Black, Adamson's boo-wam-le and UE assistant coach Odie Bañaliosa.

While the three others talked with caution, the statements that Jarencio tackled off was typical Jarencio "full of spunk and fight, despite tremendous odds."

Santo Tomas, after all, has over 1-1 records against the pre-tournament favorite Eagles and the Warriors, an achievement only the Tigers were in the current season.

"It's a matter of who wants it more," Jarencio, one of the most lethal scorers from Tomasinos pre-eminent five years as trainer in five seasons in the UAAP, added in Filipino during the PBA Presscon at the Peralatan restaurant in Manila.

"As long as we play with a complete lineup, I think we'll be OK."

Jarencio, an undersized shooting guard who still earned superstar status in the PBA with Ginebra during its golden years, talked with a lot of confidence even if his Tigers would wind up in the bottom half of the Final Four after their tournament-high 83-81 win over Adamson.

And no matter what the result of the 6 p.m. game brings, the Tigers can only make the title series with one straight victory against either the Blue Eagles or the Warriors, starting with the first game of the series on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I've always told my players to respect our opponents," Black said. "My main concern right now is to keep my players healthy and fresh, because I know it would be easy to push my players to play their best."

Black is in the Final Four for the first time, and would want to better a fourth place finish last year. His opponent squad is fluted as the most complete in the tournament, and topping the elimination came as no surprise.

Austria is calling the shots for the Falcons for the first and only time. Before assuming the head coaching chores of PBA rookie squad Welcoat on Oct. 1, the former Shell guard wants to learn an indelible UAAP mark.

"Our initial goal was only to make the Final Four," Austria said. "But now that we are here, I told my players to take advantage of this and aim higher, because a chance like this does not come very often."

Jaca challenges Marquez Oct. 21 in Texas

By Sabrina L. Lagarenlag Correspondent

FILIPINO-JIMMIE JACA PENALTY CETE the chance to hit pay-per-view in battle one-time Manny Pacquiao opponent and WBO interim featherweight champ Juan Manuel Marquez on Oct. 21 in the Dos Hudden Center in El Paso, Texas.

Set facing the 33-year-old Marquez, the 23-year-old Jaca will be paid $50,000 (P2.5-million), the biggest purse thus far in his career.

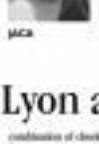
"Everything it grows and go," said Filipino promoter Ben "Wakee" Saludar in an interview yesterday. "We communicated the deal Monday night, when Ateneo signed the contract. Everybody is happy."

Jaca, who holds fans Ellenlen, Virgina Ormeni, said he may leave for the United States for further training on Sept. 25. He will be joined by his adviser Ariel Asis and trainer Rolando "Sun" Bohol.

"I will try my best to win over Marquez," said Jaca. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity [for me]."

Earlier reports said that Mexican bluepace who escaped with a draw against Pacquiao after getting knocked down three times—would be fighting Colombian Jose Nonatelo Mendoza. But while Mendoza has a good fight record, organizers were apparently turned off by the late thirties already 39 years old.

The southpaw Jaca boasts 27 wins, 2 losses, 1 draw with 12 knockouts. He once held the OPBF super bantam crown.



JACA

MARQUEZ

LIVERPOOL'S Georgi Sarroso heads the ball during a training session at the Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona. Barcelona and Levski meet on Tuesday. AFP

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Real Madrid opens vs Lyon anew

LONDON—LAST YEAR, REAL MADRID started its Champions League campaign with a 3-0 loss to French club Lyon. The two sides meet again Wednesday in the competition's opening round.

Nine-time champion Real Madrid was knocked out by eventual runner-up Arsenal in last season's second stage. Lyon also was eliminated in round two, by PSV Eindhoven.

Madrid's new has forward midfielder Jose Antonio Reyes on its squad, and he made his debut on Sunday in a 4-1 win over Levante—a match in which new striker Ruud van Nistelrooy scored a hat trick.

"We play our first Champions League match on Wednesday, and [Lyonnes] arrived as a confidence-boost heading into that game," van Nistelrooy said. "It is a very important match for us."

Meanwhile, Chelsea's recently signed Dutch defender Khalid Boulahrouz said he has been stressed by how vocal players, and their cheeky fans, will behave in front their heroes of the London club.

Chelsea host German side Werder Bremen in the Champions League later Tuesday in a bid to begin a campaign which, last season, ended before the quarter-final stage.

Three arriving from 20 Hamburg last month, Boulahrouz has been stunned by a combination of cheeky antics and the efforts some teams make when playing against Jose Mourinho's expensively assembled side.

"It's unbelievable how much venom surrounds when Chelsea are the opponents," Boulahrouz told The Sun.

Against Blackburn, not only were we kept up all night by fans woke-up calls at the hotel, but as the game they used every means possible.

In earlier games, Arsenal also play on Wednesday, traveling to Hamburg. Elsewhere, it's Dynamo Kiev vs Steaua Bucharest, Copenhagen vs Benfica, Porto vs CSKA Moscow and Anderlecht vs Celtic. AP, AFP

MALOLOS CSI RACES

Diamsay upstages Espiritu

SHEDDEN DIAMSAY BENT INTO OBLIGATIVE in the first 30 laps, then survived a late charge by defending champion Dave Espiritu to rule the second leg of the 4th Cycling Search Invitational Criterium Under the Cross, "Dave Nino Bolalayagin" held Sir Malolos, Bulacan, over the weekend.

The 28-year-old skipper of Dolmen Cable B Pilipinas broke loose right after the starting gun and led the rest of the pack by more than a minute, as Espiritu struggled to get away from a large main group.

By the 30th lap, the 32-year-old Espiritu, team captain of Philippine Army, had narrowed the gap to a mere 30 seconds before taking a blistering 60-second lead in the succeeding spring lap.

But Diamsay, a native of Pasig, Cavite, and Espiritu's teammate in the defunct Negros Island team, stuck with Espiritu to the rest of the way in the 24-kilometer triangular criterium race.

Diamsay earned 44 points to raise his overall total to 56 points, counting the 12 he earned as the sixth placer in the Quezon City leg.

Espiritu got 31 points, including 10 points awarded to him as the first lap winner, to bring his total to 36, a mere point ahead of first-leg winner Rodolfo Mabagos of Olivoy Asian Shop.

The 23-year-old Mabagos, who scored 27 points in sealing the Quezon City stage, faded early and settled for a mere eight points.

Bernard Lucero of Sta Leonardo Bargaineer, came in third in the race with 12 points and emerged fourth for fourth to fifth places with CBQ-HSCS's Lloyd Reynante.

In the Masters category, Armeo sprinter Jing Espejon Domingo won his second straight leg, sealing the Malolos race with plenty to spare. He had 47 points, with Pueblo Valdez a far second with 28, and Mexico Ramos third with 22.

Camel Supercross tour fans get crack at prizes

THOSE SUPERCROSS FANS IN the Visayas will highlight the launch of the Camel Supercross Shotgun Promo Tour on Oct. 1.

Riders, including a 2006 SEGPA 1000 CC Baden Mesarcyia, award lucky motocross fans during their appearances exhibition rides inside with the staging of the Camel Supercross Series in Bacolod, Ormoc and Iloilo.

Motocross fans from Regions 6 and 8 need only to submit empty packs of Camel Filter Kings with their name, address, mobile numbers and signature to be eligible to join in the raffle.

The grand raffle draw will be held during the final leg in Iloilo City on Nov. 26.

Other prizes to be given away are 12 Supercross Gear sets, which include a racing helmet, boots, gloves, jersey and pants, knee and shin guards, elbow and knee protector, Champions League Jam Trophy in Supercross Gear Bags, and 40 Supercross backpacks.

Top international supercross riders from Asia, led by defending champion Glenn Aguilar of the Philippines and James Robertson of New Zealand, have already confirmed their participation in the three-part, island-hopping series.

Yamaha X1 riders dominate NRA race

MARIANO G. DIEZEL, LEON MIGUEL OLIVEROS III '97D Yamaha and Jaime Bautista of Sanchez Yamaha, dominated the second leg of the 2006 National Racing Association (NRA) Grand Prix held recently at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite. Racers raced for more experienced rivals for the second time in as many months to take the lead with expertise several 50-points. Diezel, who also owns a Yamaha R1, finished second for the second time in a row. Bautista raced on the 20-20-20-10-10 scoring system. Third was another Yamaha R1 rider, Mark Anthony Sarcia, with 61. Three other Yamaha R1 riders—Daniel Pamintuan, Armando Carreon Jr. and Edsel de Rivas—finished fourth, fifth and sixth, in that order. Omanio had 52 points, Carreon 51 and De Rivas 50. Surrounding by riding a Honda Beagle, was seventh with 37 points, followed by Eki Aquino on eighth place in another Honda Beagle with 20 points. Rounding out the top 10 riders are Anthony Ong, ninth on another Honda XR 150L, and Lui Magdalo, 10th in a Honda Wave 110i.

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BUSINESS
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PC BUYER'S GUIDE
PROMO

Exports up 13% to $3.96B in July

But growth lower than the 20.6% posted in June

By Michelle V. Rosco

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS CONTINUED TO POST double-digit growth in July, although at a pace slower than the rate of the previous month.

The National Statistics Office yesterday said exports in July rose 12.8 percent to $3.96 billion from $3.5 billion in the same month last year.

The 12.8-percent growth was slower than the 20.6 percent registered in June. This was blamed on the flat growth in the shipments of electronics products, the country's biggest export earner, and the depreciation of the yen—which made local products more expensive in dollar terms and, therefore, less attractive to buyers.

For the first seven months, exports earnings rose 16.2 percent to $26.6 billion from year-ago level.

NSO data showed that electronics products were still the country's top export earner, accounting for about $1.07 billion of the total in July. The amount, however, was merely 1.4 percent higher than year-ago level. The growth rate was slower than the 6.6 percent growth rate posted by the export sector in June.

While the appreciation of the yen helps reduce the cost of imports and the government's foreign borrowings, it has the downside of making exports less competitive.

The yen averaged at 55.951 to $1 in July last year. It strengthened to an average of 115.709 to $1 in July this year.

Despite the adverse impact of a strong yen on the country's exports, the Semiconductor and Electronics Industry of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) said it was not calling for any government intervention in the market.

Rene Santiago, Seipi's executive director, said the group agreed with economist's methodology that the determination of the exchange rate should be left to market forces.

"The quality of the export products should be the key to compete globally," he said.

Santiago added that business cycle, rather than the strengthening of the peso, was the bigger factor that contributed to the slower export growth in July.

"Usually the third quarter is re-

EXPORTS /B-1

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 55.42 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 12, 2006

¥ 117.66 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 12, 2006

GOLD: $591.60/OZ.tr.oz

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 11, 2006

August 30 Sept. 6

STOCK MARKET

Stocks fall 1.6%

STOCKS FELL YESTERDAY, with Philex Mining and Petron Corp. suffering substantial losses on weakening metal and crude prices.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 28.13 points, or 1.6 percent, to 1,761.92, at

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(See stock market report on Page B-9)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ P6-B windfall blocked /L24
■ Banks' bad credit card exposure declining /B11
■ Gov't to settle P3.3-B GSIS debt /B12

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FREE ENTRANCE

PARTIAL LIST OF PRODUCTS ON DISPLAY

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS & PRODUCT PRESENTATIONS

SEPTEMBER 20

SEPTEMBER 21

SEPTEMBER 22

SEPTEMBER 23

SEMINARS BY THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR PRINT EXCELLENCE (PCPE)

SEMINARS BY ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (OEM) REPRESENTED BY THE PCEE OFFICERS COMPANY

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PHILIPPINE WELDING SOCIETY (PWS)

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Nature of Business

RP banks' bad loans down to 7.17% in July

New low since Asian crisis, BSP reports

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BAD LOANS RILL OF PHILIPPINE COM- mercial banks fell to a new post-Asian crisis low of 7.17 percent of total loans in July from 7.23 percent in June, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The improvement in the non-performing loan ratio was made possible by the decline in bad loans and the increase in total loan portfolio from a month ago.

Based on the BSP report, total NPLs went down in July to P136.33 billion from P136.53 billion last month, while the total loan portfolio grew to P1.9 trillion from P1.89 trillion.

Compared to a year ago, the NPL ratio dropped by 2.37 percentage points from 9.54 percent in July last year.

The banking sector's NPL ratio peaked at 18.81 percent in October 2001, but started to ease slightly starting last year as the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) framework allowed banks to unload about P91 billion in bad assets.

The SPV Law waived some of the taxes and reduced fees usually collected from the sale or transfer of assets.

The law scrapped the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and e-VAT imposed value added tax) and reduced the registration transfer fees by half.

Congress recently passed a law extending the law's effectivity for two more years.

Exclusive of interbank loans, the industry's

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RIEV Legal Consultancy Firm
By:
Atty. Edward V. Quintana
Counsel for GERICO PRODUCTS, INC.
28 Timog Ave., Quezon City

CDC CEO resigns

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer General Luzon

CLARK SPECIAL Economic Zone - The president and chief executive officer of the state-owned Clark Development Corp. today denied his immediate resignation on Tuesday.

"I leave with a clear conscience, grateful for the opportunity to serve and for acknowledging the talent of Macapagal-Arroyo's leadership," Antonio Ng said in his resignation letter dated Sept. 12.

Ng was said to be the last man standing among the officials close to Ayala Land executives Fernando Lanzarote III, former SCADC chief, at the CDC and at the CDC, where Ng was also a director.

Lanzarote resigned in August last year after political pundits hung as the fallout Metropolitan Manila Development, which he served as chair.

"But everything flows in a natural and a time. I believe it is now time for me to move on," said Ng.

He called his 38 months at the helm "fruitful."

Ng's resignation, effective on Sept. 30, came after more than a month-long leave of absence.

Sources offered various reasons for his leaving from and it stemmed from the 8063 handling of the building for the presentation of the Mineral Leisure Estate here.

Others said it was due to the pressures by a Korean-Japan lobby group to install Indonesian Levi Lesi.

Ng did not take calls from the Inquirer to his text a new message that he was busy in a CDC board meeting.

P6-B windfall blocked

COCKTAILS

Victor C. Agustin

BSSMR, CICP MAnold's owner Rodolfo Cuenco has launched a counteroffer to stop Mabuhay from consummating a group of businessmen Carlos "Sonny" Dominguez Jr. for over 50 million.

In a motion for leave to file and to admit attached comment/opposition, the Cuenco group said neither he nor his CEO board had authorized or guaranteed the alleged loan contracted by a CICP mining subsidiary from Mandaluyong.

The loan, which has ballooned to over P21 billion, is now the subject of an ensuing Senate investigation because the government, which had taken over CICP-PHCC from Cuenco during the early '80s, and Dominguez, who in turn had acquired the controlling interest from the government, will give up 20 percent ownership of PHCC and relinquish, in favor of Dominguez, a 6-percent share in the gross bet revenues (after deduction of the 8-percent cost) of the profitable Manila Hotel Tri-Entertainment Center.

In addition, Dominguez will also receive 16 hectares of reclaimed land along Roxas Boulevard, plus several parcels of PHCC land in Batangas, Tagaytay, Antipolo and Bulacan.

The Rizal Provincial property, where the Philippine Philtrend Bank, on which a new month's empty land borrows PHCC and the Government Service Insurance System headquarters.

With the settlement, PHCC will be reduced to a holding company, with only thoroughbred franchise to its name.

The other Singson

THE SINGSON color was said to be the major cause of the falling out between Gov. Ian "Sonny" Singson and Joseph Estrada last month from behind the scenes literally pack-up he owns.

Ian "Sonny" Singson, the younger, businessman brother of Chavit, has inched in the partners of Philippine's Hall "Ian" Cuenco that is pinned flagbolstably the Philippine Olympics.

According to the grapevine, the two have struck on enduring friendship and business partnership since their neighborhood days in Wack Wack Cuenco, who is still in the United States receiving Olympic Hall award but has reportedly pastured the trade secrets he learned during his short-lived partnership with Ousting, where he served as board chair for the latter's illinois Tunes.

Incidentally, Singson is planned non-participant, the new Chronicle is being launched on Sept. 25, right smack on the same day that Ferdinand Marcos proclaimed martial law in 1972.

To fill its editorial ranks, the paper has been raiding the "Tribune of Water" Carlos Cuenco whose staff, according to the grapevine, have been grumbling over the financial difficulties the titled-but-GMA paper could not remove get out of.

Musap-go-round

+ TOMORROW'S again offering On popular cards and makes promo, where for as low as $150 and 47,000 frequent flier miles, one can fly to the 59th Coast for the Christmas holidays. Check out www.musap.com.ph for details.

+ THE OUTSOURCING School Month has advanced to special stakeholders' meeting to Sept. 18, from the original Sept. 28.

Heard through the grapevine

BSSC still undecided whether PNAMC's Marvin Quirino stepped last Friday's press conference being called by Bukayon Electric, a power company said to be controlled by ABC-5's Antonio Cojuangco and Ian Miguel's Ramon Ang. The press briefing was to be held in the SGV building, where PNAMC is officed.

Email: confusion_cyber@philmail.ph or confusion_cyber@yahoo.com.

Life's dents and scratches

For the young entrepreneur, success is the result of continued hard work and patience.

Remembering what you said through makes success much sweeter. Memories of your struggles, opportunities you grabbed, luck you squeezed, and the signs of assistance you took along the way. And for the sentimental you, the business theme of things you kept all those years around you of everything you went through like that old push-up book which was your "partner" for a long time while you were still struggling to make it big.

Like the dents and scratches your truck accumulated, everything has a meaning which takes you back to where it all started and where it has arrived at. Exactly what PSBank has in mind with its new passbook design.

PSBank wants every financial highlight to be recorded in your passbook as if it were a diary. With its new personal debit cardstore, you can monitor your deposits and withdrawals. The new PSBank passbook will help you keep better track of your money and your aspirations in life.

PSBank knows how important every moment of your life is. That's why it helps you save more by offering you the benefits of a passbook savings. Passbook savings are perceived to discipline one from making too many withdrawals. Compared with an ATM account that is highly accessible, transactions in passbook savings are usually done in branches, thus giving you a moment to evaluate every withdrawal that you will make. This way, there's a better chance of building up your savings because there is less temptation to withdraw your money and indulge in impulse buying.

And a PSBank passbook lets you enjoy the convenience of being able to withdraw from any of their 130 branches nationwide. One passbook assigned to 130 branches. that is definitely hands free and hassle-free.

You've already paid the price of your success. And with PSBank willing to be with you all the way, you're more than ready for bigger things to come. Record your every financial milestone on PSBank's new personal safety columns. After all, it's not just any passbook. It's the story of your life.

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Give CAP license, judge urges SEC

Move seen to help plan holders

By Elizabeth L. Sarabia

A MANILA REGIONAL trial court judge has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to reconsider renewing the license of beleaguered College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) to sell pre-need plans, which was suspended in 2006.

Makati RTC Branch 149 Judge Oscar Catalan said in a hearing Monday that giving CAP back its license under certain terms and conditions would help CAP's plan holders.

"If indeed SEC is to protect existing plan holders, why not give it a try (give CAP back its license), under a controlled situation, so those plan holders will be served," Catalan said during the hearing.

Catalan also ordered that a meeting be held next month between the court, CAP, its receiver, SEC and those opposed to CAP's rehabilitation plan to determine whether CAP should proceed with its rehabilitation program.

However, lawyers from the Office of the Solicitor General, representing SEC, told the court that giving CAP back its license would set a "bad precedent" for other pre-need firms.

Lawyers explained that CAP had already been given a five-year leeway to meet its obligations.

They also pointed out that SEC suspended CAP's license in 2004 to address the complaints of CAP's plan holders. Giving back CAP its license, the SEC lawyers added, would allow the "no record" plan holders whose money could be used to fund recipients of matching plans.

CAP filed its petition for corporate rehabilitation last August 2005 after it faced difficulties in availing its liabilities to plan holders.

CAP proposed under its rehabilitation plan to pay its obligations to plan holders and build up its reserve fund within eight years starting 2005.

The revised rehabilitation plan also said that CAP will be less reliant on foreign equity to boost the liquidity of its trust fund, or the money it needs to settle the company's liabilities to plan holders.

CAP's receiver also asked the pre-need firm to cut down its sales projections to reflect its true financial position.

CAP's revised rehabilitation plan is expected to reduce the plan holders of 603,000 from 780,000 last year as many terminated their plans.

The revised plan has three other features, namely investment operations; introduction of "fixed growth" plans; and restructuring of debts.

CAP originally asked for traditional or open-ended plans, sale of assets such as shares in Bank of Commerce, bonds linked to the Metro Rail Transit system or MRT in 2009, and raising loan and condominium construction funds for investment operations, holders' contributions, equity infusion, sale of subsidiaries and the restructuring of corporate debts.

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ROYAL SWISSOTEL

Stocks fall 1.6%

Front page B1

...ng ...ow percent Monday.

...ctively ended Philex ... shares...traded by both foreign and local investors—had 7 percent to P3.38 on weakening metal prices. Petron lost 3.6 percent to close at P2.75 on worldwide petroleum weakening decline, which may affect aspects of the country's largest refiner to ...ers.

"I think the market can still weaken because emerging markets are on a selling mode right now. We're not sure on the correction," Rapsing Asset ... president Fitzgerald Ador said.

Also hit by the sell-off were SM Investments, down 0.9 percent to P338, and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., which fell 2 percent to P2,000. Following the 1.5-percent loss by the company's American Depositary Receipts in New York Monday.

All-national indices ... retreated. Decliners led gainers 94 to 16, while 36 stocks were unchanged. AP

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RP banks' bad loans . . .

From page B2

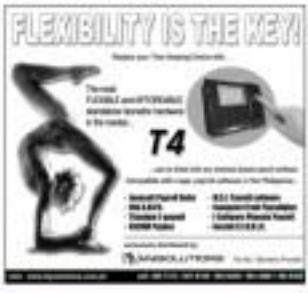
NPL ratio likewise improved to 8.04 percent from the previous month's 8.75 percent and last year's 11.04 percent.

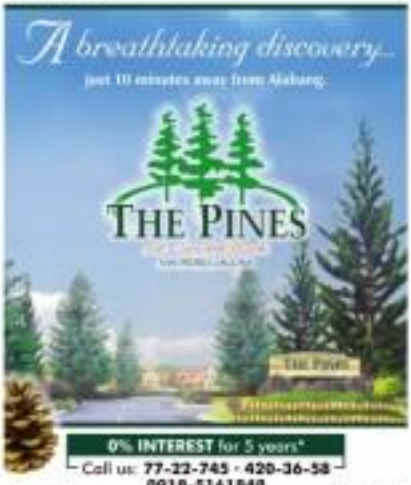
Restructured loans as a ratio of total loans also eased to 5.87 percent from last month's 5.11 percent.

Meantime, the non-performing RLs to total RLs ratio eased to 46.01 percent from last month's 46.71 percent as non-performing RLs declined at a faster pace of 1.64 percent.

A debt restructuring can arise when a whole range of debt restructuring—including the shedding out of liabilities, lowering of interest rates and, in extreme cases, the conversion of debt into equity—to give the borrower some room to breathe and evolve its business.

Gross real and other properties acquired (Repo) in real debt likewise declined by 8.64 percent to P391.17 billion.





MOTORING

Jojie Cesar D. Manzanero

10 ways to prevent auto repair nightmares

By Tessa B. Salazar

IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SAID that car owners should be responsible drivers. But some rethink of it, that's just half of the moral of the story. The other half of this advice should read something like, "...and they should also be responsible maintainers." So, taken as a whole, being responsible drivers and maintainers of cars entails them to follow the rules of the road, observe road courtesy, and drive defensively.

At the same time, owners have to be knowledgeable of the vehicle and be responsible in taking care of their cars.

And just like driving, car maintenance involves some "defensive" techniques, especially when you're hearing mumbo-jumbo technical procedures in some shops' jargon.

An owner should be inquisitive and participating should be aware of his or her rights as a consumer. Avoid everything that you sign, get a magnifying glass and read and understand the fine print. Here are more tips for car owners:

1 Go to a shop or area with your trusted mechanic for technical guidance and advice. Have a trusted expert with you, if you're not knowledgeable with the car you bought.

2 It's stated in law that before any repairs should be done on your car, or before any part would have to be replaced, you should be informed. There has to be a written authorization from the customer that he or she is consenting to the repairs. If in doubt, don't agree, don't sign anything.

3 Consult union or auto repair shops with good reputations to protect. How would you know? Consult friends and news enthusiasts and ask where they have their repairs.

4 Canvass. And it's not just prices you canvass, you canvass for quality, too. Ask previous customers what they the repairs done there were satisfactory. Consult automotive experts. Ask them what stresses the car repair shops there are aside from the brand-new dealer shops.

5 Pay attention to warranties when buying a car. According to Jude V. Sales of the DTI consumer assistance and protection center, a lot of people who buy brand-new cars don't give much attention to the terms of the warranty and the conditions arising from the situation. Some car owners demand replacements right away, but when they had signed the terms of the warranty, these kinds of demands are all for naught.

"If you don't agree to the terms of warranty then don't buy it. You bought it, signed it, that means you agree to it," he said.

6 Read what you sign. "Many Filipinos don't read what they sign," according to the DTI consumer assistance and protection center. "This careless habit of signing everything away leads to so many unresolved complaints."

In light of tights 4, here's tights 7 directed to manufacturers and dealers:

7 Dealers and manufacturers must help the customers understand what he or she is going into. If they notice that a particular customer is too busy to care free—to read anything that needs the buyer's signature, Sales urges that the seller should "make it a point to explain to the buyer the contents of the warranty. If they don't seem to listen, at least underscore or highlight on the paper that particular content or warranty."

Sales cited actual, common situations arising from this problem. A customer would buy a brand-new car with a warranty that reads at, say 100,000 km or three years, whichever comes first. After four years, the buyer drives into the area with the vehicle having logged 200,000 km, demanding that he would avail of the warranty for the car.

There, his demands having been refused by the dealer, he ran his grievances to the DTI. "Even if the warranty period clearly had expired but the customer was still go through the mediation stage. "He never have to come up with a win-win solution," Sales cautioned. The customer may get his way in the end, but not after precious time and hours are wasted for all parties concerned.

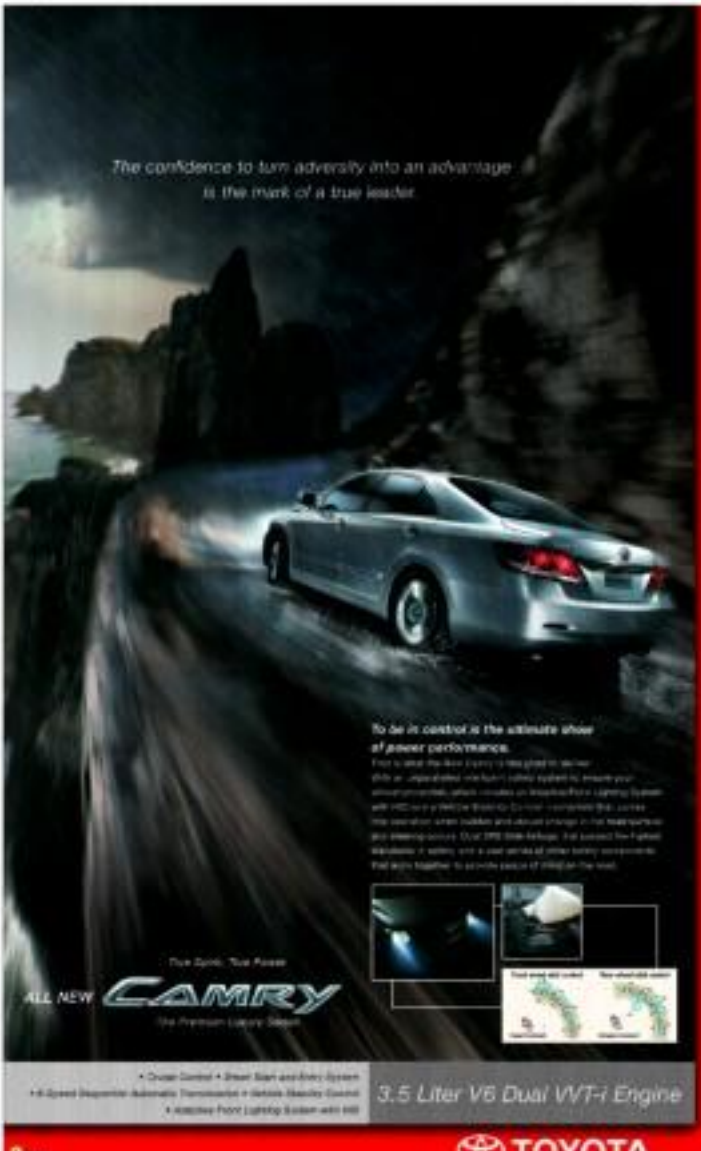
So, in this context, here's the new tip for consumers:

8 Make sure your complaints are legitimate and valid. Sales explained that the DTI would go out of its way to help all complainants. But things would be much better if the complainant knew more. "How can we not basically intimidate things that we have an encounter. Otherwise, it becomes a case the complainant have given," Sales said.

9 Knowledge is power, so know as much as there is to know about the product you're buying. Get your own copy of your consumer rights and responsibilities. DTI consumer assistance said the first step that should be taken doesn't even require to yourself: The DTI consumers hotline is 811-6128 loc. 3229, or e-mail complaints to dtiecp@dti.com.ph. An online copy of Consumer Act of the Philippines or Republic Act 7394, click, http://www.dti.gov.ph/contentmenu/0,4,Wow PILOT, 000.pdf

No issues here? So what? The absence of a lemon law never impeded any complainant from filing cases against automakers. And besides, replacement claims for brand-new cars are liken on a case-to-case basis, according to the DTI consumer assistance and protection center.

"The law states that if in 30 days the consumer doesn't able to correct the defect, the complainant has the right for a refund or re-



Cagi pays courtesy calls

A COURTESY CALL IS A GESTURE OF respect and signals your interest to receive professionally and courteously with the people you are visiting. In this context, officers of the Car Awards Group Inc. (Cagi), which conducts the annual 'Car of the Year Philippines' (Cotyp) awards program, are paying courtesy calls on car manufacturers.

Why only now? Because this year, since Cotyp F is already into its third year. The simple reason is that the founding members of Cagi had not thought of it before, being kept extremely busy with the three canvassing, box-tabbing task of organizing and developing Cotyp F while simultaneously working fulltime as motoring journalists.

Evaluate

When Cagi was formed as a nonprofit, unaccredited organization in September 2004, we just only had to evaluate six mechanical and qualitative sets 30 current vehicles over a period of six weekends in two months, we also had to register Cagi with the Department of Trade and Industry Securities and Exchange Commission, Bureau of Internal Revenue and the local governments. Most difficult of all, we had to build up support and recognition without toppling the car manufacturers themselves.

Logistical support provided readily by Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) formerly the Philippine Motor Association) enabled Cagi to conduct the tests promptly and helped us win over Jorge Bolipata Golf (formerly Golf). Dan Hur (not yet) owner of the Manila Internal Semi-Auto Show for the unending customers logistics L. Rockwell Land (for the Awards Night venue) and help Gaves Velayo & Co. (to audit the vote results) aside from other major economic sectors Foundry Chemistry Co. Inc. and Manila Hotels Delivery Corp.

Fine-tuning

The second year of Cotyp saw the fine-tuning of the awards program. The number of categories was increased from 10 to 11 and since the car all data was extended to Dec. 31, 2005, the evaluation tests were conducted in January and February 2006 instead of October and November 2005. In the first year of Cotyp, 6 vehicles more than 6000 available on the market from October 2003 to October 2004.

From the start, to maintain its independence and avoid any conflict of interest, Cagi has not solicited or accepted financial support from car manufacturers, distributors and dealers, neither do we charge them an admission fee to enter their products in Cotyp. Cagi does not hold fund-raising events such as golf tournaments where car manufacturers/distributors/car dealers are each asked to donate a cash figure now.

Rationale

The rationale behind the round of courtesy calls on car manufacturers is to introduce the current Cagi board of directors and committee chairmen. As mostly passed the 2006 Cotyp testing guidelines, answer questions and seek comments and suggestions on how to further improve Cotyp F.

So far, Cagi has paid courtesy calls on four car manufacturers: Mercedes Sports Inc., the distributor of Land Rover and Jaguar cars, with president Wellington Tsang, his son Mark and service center manager Bodie Jun Mateo; Honda Cars Philippines Inc. with HCPI president and chief executive Takeshi Sekiguchi and marketing deputy head Arnel Dones and his assistant; GAS Motors, distributor of Mercedes-Benz, Chrysler, Dodge and Jeep, with president Erin Ang and marketing/business/corporate communication Lisa Arcilla; Bobby Shaw and Andrew Villanueva, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, with president/CEO Kengo Takata, marketing senior vice president Mel Dizon, marketing assistant vice president Froilan Estanislao and advertising head Adan Reyes.

On schedule

Next on schedule are Universal Motors Corp., distributors of Nissan light commercial vehicles and Isuzu; Philippine Corp. with the new Toyota, Ford, Mazda, Suzuki distributors; Nissan, BMW, Audi, Volkswagen, Porsche, Hyundai, Kia, Ssangyong, Peugeot—still to be scheduled.

Several suggestions were given during these visits, such as putting up a test hour where representatives of participating car manufacturers can observe the test proceedings, similar to what is done by Cotv Japan. Another suggestion was to add a tough off-road testing segment to the vehicle tests. The country's car population. The need for a fuel-efficiency test has also been pointed out.

Cagi welcomes and takes into serious consideration the suggestions from car manufacturers since they are after all, the most important stakeholder in Cotyp. After the test comparisons. The country's cars are a step forward to establishing—if not consolidating—a positive relationship between Cagi and car manufacturers for the advancement of engineering, design and safety standards in the automotive industry and for informing consumers about this program through Cotyp F.

* * *

TODAY'S RUMOR STICKER: 1 Getsome sweet. (Source: Hot Perches)

(E-mail comments to carvilla@inquirer.com.ph)

Two beauties from Modena

THE GT SEDAN at rest. 4.2-liter Ferrari V8 ranging the crowds at bay

THE WRITER wrapped in the Coupé cockpit. Leather, leather everywhere.

EVEN IN THE STORYBOOK TRAVELS of a motoring hack, there are definite highlights. Exciting driving to-dos, newly acclimated access to cool vehicles and the opportunity to comprehensively drive some of the best rated on the planet are not actually just par for the course. It is to one's to-get jaded and no test drive tours are just part of a difficult job that someone is hardened to perform. I'm being serious here, folks.

One, in a while though, there are segments that bring together all three of these significant factors. This wonderful mix of events, access and drivable variety in turn morphs in the life of someone so much wild-eyed, semi-worldly innocuous journalist or not.

So without much further ado, let me set the scene for our readers. Imagine one sunny day in the Batangas Driving Center. Add to the mix several test hacks under exceptionally favorable weather conditions.

Do I do all from the driver's seat of two beautiful examples of Italian coachwork and engineering. The Maserati Quattroporte parked gleaming sunshine and the Ferrari 612 Scaglietti Coupé. I'd be lying if I said I got any sleep the night before, as this would be my first experience, my awakening if you will, to nuances of such pedigreed and performance.

My initiation to Italian auto

Before I started my engines or burn my rubber, my eye-opening, my initiation to the Italian automobile, had to mostly begun to consist. Amazing noises and from the Coupé and the Quattroporte, those cars' noises for being become clear for this Maserati's engine is.

The first thing to hit you is the smell of the Coupé, one of leather, one of luxury, one of a painfully costly pair of pumps in that of an heavenly small and expensive handbag you had just bled for. The Quattroporte on the other hand smelled like a grand piano, the handcrafted timber trim and the dark luxury leather helping wash the olfactory illusion of the cabin. I'll go out on a limb and say that the perfumes of these cabins is obviously a strong indicator of just how exclusive these cars are. I swear that I wasn't hallucinating at the time, promise.

Then there is the sound that the Ferrari 4.2-liter V8 makes. Already mostly convinced of luxury, starting up the sound engineers will have to have at their cores that will accompany every dab on the gas pedal. I think my head thinking of what the exhaust soundtrack of my lips around BBC could be like. Would I still be able to countenance on a steadfast and smooth to skiing? Forget it, I'd never the sound regardless and even roll down the windows for the full aural experience.

Flipping the throttle circle cross that starts the button in the four open range, and then develops into a modulated rolling as the engine works the revolutions. Despite the guttural nature typical of high-output V8's, there is just no sense of jagged and violence when working the throttle, just unmistakable power and beauty.

While the Coupé had the edge needed to tackle the straights, turns, bends and comfort changes of the track, the car never begins to remind one of its touring purposes. The Quattroporte was asking to be freed of the confines of the track, sometimes testing me of place in the quick twists and sharp turns.

Not in a closed venue

While the track was a safe, closed venue where one can really explore the ability and aptitude of these cars, such vehicle would have probably shone better in an environment more down to their natural haunts. The Coupé was begging to be taken deep to the most immaculate terrace of the nearest hills and mountain passes, while the Quattroporte asked to roam confidently, comfortably on some

THE WRITER wrapped in the Coupé cockpit. Leather, leather everywhere.

stretch of world-class highway unopened land. Unfortunately, none of these driving conditions naturally occur in the Philippines.

The packages that both these cars present are beyond anything conceivably practical for the Philippine context. Both cars almost as much as a luxury that. Assuming costs per annum are probably more. One of an average household. They can't be driven in all high-traffic roads and in the case of these Italian beauties that means 95 percent of our lists unacceptable.

If I'd see in thinking of these corridor action when assessing these cars, I'll be the first one to say you've lost the plot. Yes, they are a hoot to drive, and the experience they provide is quite unique and memorable. As cars go, there are non-ones my head, way-out of my league. My grandchildren will probably have to listen to stories about my near-time in a couple of Maserati's, another day's work in wonderland.

New device helps save on fuel

THE PROPERTY WORK PRICE and fuel all have made motorists hungry for ways to cut on fuel costs. Because of this need, fuel-saving gadgets, devices, additives and automotive components have sprouted in the market, all promising to help motorists save on fuel bills and achieve better engine efficiency and lower emissions.

Most of the devices and gas-saving parts are often pricey, a fact from the money-back guarantee like the one being offered by Econojet Manufacturing Corp., a new line that developed the Econojet gas-saving device.

Econojet claims the gas-saving back gear system within a maximum period of 90 days if a customer is not satisfied with the product, said Econojet technical director Edgar Sison.

Satisfied customers

Since its launch early this year, over a hundred units of Econojet had been sold and still are out at a loss of 2 units, indicating that customers are satisfied beyond expectations with the product, Sison said.

The unit depends on the applicable vehicle but because of the 15 to 40 percent savings that can be realized from the combined engine efficiency and fuel savings, the cost becomes immaterial.

Cleaner air

Over the long term, consumers of the Econojet mechanical device will result in cleaner air since pollutants like carbon monoxide and unburned hydrocarbons are reduced in direct relation to fuel-saved levels, Sison added.

As a mechanical device, it does not require any chemical for it to function. It is made from high-grade aluminum non-free material that requires minimum maintenance unlike other fuel-saving devices of this type. Econojet can be used for both gasoline and diesel engines of cars, vans, SUVs and light trucks, he said.

Improved mileage

Econojet replaces air and fuel mixture to obtain the proper air and fuel ratio for better combustion. Econojet has been tested extensively in actual driving conditions and based on records, satisfied customers reported an average of 30 percent improved mileage, where some even reached an improved mileage of 45 percent, Sison said.

As accelerators, the fuel and air mixture is correct but at deceleration or idling stage, the mixture becomes to correct due to lack of required air where the engine needs more of this fuel than air which only goes to waste and produces unburned fuel causing excessive gases like carbon monoxide and hydrocarbon.

Correct mixture

The right regulation of Econojet valve and air mixture provides the engine the correct mixture ratio in cruising, idling or accelerated stage—in a result better combustion is achieved, thereby improving engine performance, improved mileage, prolonged engine life and elimination of humidifiers.

Econojet gives no adverse effect on the engine as it only acts as a regulator of air and fuel mixture to its economic composition, Sison said.

Econojet is cheap and hassle-free to maintain because of the quality of the materials used in the production process. One only has to change the filter every two to three weeks to one month, depending on the vehicle usage and area condition. Installation takes a mere 30 minutes to one hour.

Econojet users have felt an improved acceleration right after installation of the device, which proved to be taking effect on their vehicle and in every way to saving fuel and the environment, he reminded.

Dealer network

Econojet Manufacturing is now expanding its dealer network from the current 10 locations in Metro Manila and is now processing dealer applications nationwide. The firm, located at the ground floor, Hacienda Libis, Quezon City, can be contacted at 687-4077, 0915-8389421 or 0917-8361202. For more information, visit www.econojet.net.

Current dealers include Kenner Engine Rebuilders, 87 West Ave., QC; Autoshoes Accessories Center, 30 G/F Bonanza St., QC; 333 Auto Center Inc., 333 Quezon Ave., QC; Autoparts Kalayaan Ave., Brgy. Pinyahan, QC; Sarmina Valve Enterprises, Pasay Ave. Ext., Cubao; Auto Technical Enterprises, Timog Ave., Quezon City; Mandaluyong Auto Supply, Boni Ave., Mandaluyong; Auto Supply Corp., Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong; Auto Supply Corp., Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong; Auto Supply Corp., Shaw Blvd

CONSULT experts on whatever changes you will decide on.

One rider's passion for self-expression

THE HONLY synchronized Honda is made to look like the YZR-M1 of reckless multiple MotoGP world champion and Yamaha rider Valentino Rossi (shown).

By Charles E. Bolano

ONE OF THE REASONS motorcycle-based motorbikes are enjoying such an immense popularity all over the country is due to ability to actually bring personality to its owner without spending so much time, money and effort.

Such passion for self-expression is perhaps the reason the country's motorbike sales have been steadily rising. Reaching 500,000 units in 2005, this figure is expected to grow further to more than 700,000 units this year.

Unlike doing the same for a car, personalizing a motorbike is much more affordable and easier, with small just as tremendous as owners would attest from the approving looks they enjoy while on the road or on the parking lot.

"A personalized motorbike could be regarded as a direct extension of one's personality. I guess it's natural thing as people often want something that is personal to them to be as unique as themselves," said Elmo Biterin II, a motoring outlet and an avid customizer of motorbikes.

Serious tweaking

He informed that while most individuals bring on the "bling" with cosmetic enhancements like unique paint job, lighting, sound systems, rims and tires, and body kits, others would further look up those modifications with some serious tweakings, changing the suspension and brakes as well as doing adjustments to the exhaust system and carburetor, and sometimes the engine (although that would further increase the motorbike's output, it is not recommended to very often as it affects fuel consumption).

To say one, it's more on the appearance although I did some things to improve on the suspension, exhaust and carburetor but left the engine untouched. I still prefer it for off-the-road use, which is one of the reasons I bought a motorbike," explained Biterin who now often leaves his car at home in Antipolo City to commute in gasoline and overlooking congested traffic.

It is spur of just one year, Biterin had twice modified his Yamaha Mactio 125 motorbike, spending around P1,000 on the first and close to P25,000 on the most recent transformation.

He explained that it's relatively more affordable compared to the personal touch he had done with his car some years ago.

Moreover, he said that watching his motorbike progress over time, comparing "before" and "after" photos, and enjoying positive feedback and comments from the people he meets is indeed, priceless and can be especially satisfying to a motorbike enthusiast like him.

Basic appeal

"Thanks to the Yamaha Mactio's basic appeals—and support from the aftermarket is-

CONTINUED

Luxury now comes at a better price.

Nowadays, it seems that owning a luxurious vehicle is an unattainable indulgence. Not entirely. Just last month, Universal Motors Corporation gave luxury a better price.

Nissan Urvan Estate was reintroduced in the market at a more affordable price, giving you the opportunity to enjoy luxury, comfort and practical value.

From the expressive streamlined exterior all the way to its core, the Estate exudes nothing but elegance.

The gentle curves give the Estate's robust body a hint of grace—a fitting prelude to the beautiful interior that awaits every passenger. A smooth dash of the door and one would immediately shed even the smallest doubt that the Estate is a first-class vehicle.

Its spacious interior gives its privileged owners acres of legroom to kick their shoes off and enjoy the ride without the nasty muscle cramps.

Plush high-back seats that are ergonomically designed to support the spine make each journey as pleasant as the destination itself.

High end extras and cushions let you enjoy comfort for many years. The Estate also features rear air conditioning that allows individual ventilation for each row, keeping passengers cool and comfy no matter where they are seated. And because the Estate can sit twelve people comfortably, the whole family can enjoy the luxury and ease of travel even on the longest of road trips.

As with most expensive possessions, the little things can make a big difference. And the Estate has plenty of those accents and trimmings that add down class to the already elegant interior.

The Urvan Estate gives you true value for money. For the sensible man, it is the wisest buy in this era of risk. Where else can you find a luxury van that rides and feels like a mid-sized sedan price 12 insurance?

The Nissan Urvan Estate retails for only P1.295 million at your local Nissan dealer.

ADV'T

Banks' bad credit card exposure declining

8-mo auto sales flat

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES REMAINED flat growth in the first eight months of the year, but economists expect their turnover to gather steam in the remainder of the year following a final decision of the Supreme Court upholding the ban against used vehicle imports.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Camp) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) said in a joint report that a total of 63,245 units were sold as of end-August, declining by 0.3 percent from 63,737 units in the same period last year.

August sales increased to 7,4 percent vs 6,704 units from the previous month's 6,595 units due to growth in sales of light commercial vehicles, trucks and buses.

Camp and TMA end-user members were looking at a better performance in the last months of the year with the expected resolution of the issue involving the 730 used cars on value-added tax (VAT).

From January to August, passenger car sales went up 3.6 percent to 24,862 units from 23,756 units between comparative periods.

However, the sales turnover of commercial vehicles—comprised of Asian utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, light trucks and trucks and buses—dipped by 2.7 percent to 38,863 units in the first eight months from 39,981 units.

The same gains posted by light commercial vehicles (LCV) segment dropped to 19.2 percent—each in pickup, cars, compact sport utility vehicles—and by trucks and buses (13.4 percent). Most significantly wiped out by the decline posted by the other types of commercial vehicles.

Sales of AUVs went down 11.9 percent to 15,898 units while those of light trucks did by 2.4 percent to 1,306 units.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. kept the lead with a 31.2 percent share of the market.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. came in second with 16 per cent of the market with sales reaching 9,917 units or 4.6 per cent higher.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. placed third with 12.5 percent of the market, but sold 7,999 units or a 15.5 percent setback.

In the CV segment Toyota grabbed 39.6 percent of the market. Mitsubishi held 16.4 percent and Isuzu Philippines Corp. had 14.1 percent.

Also, Toyota sold the biggest number cars, grabbing 28.9 percent of the market segment. Honda cornered 20.8 percent and Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. held 7.4 percent.

The country's only exporter of completely built units, Ford shipped out 3,762 units or 6.1 percent more than the number it exported between January and August of 2005.

Nonperforming vehicle loans up to P3.3B in Q2

By Dom C. Disini

PHILIPPINE BANKS' NONPERFORMING credit and exposure dropped to 10.2 percent of their total philo-based lending as of end-June this year from 10 percent a quarter ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

But the trend was not as favorable for automobile lending, where past due receivables went up to 3.66 percent as of end-exposure to this sector as of June from 4.04 percent found March.

The figures were based on the BSP's quarterly report on the consumer lending activities of the entire banking system—covering universal and commercial banks, thrift banks and bank subsidiaries.

For credit cards, the banking system's total lending exposure by 2.4 percent to P81.9 billion in the second quarter from P79.8 billion in the first three months of the year. The second quarter figure represented a 12.9 percent increase from the total billings a year ago.

The proportion of credit card receivables to the consolidated total loan portfolio of banks eased to 4.5 percent, the same as last quarter's ratio, but higher than year ago's 4 percent.

The increase in the ratio from last quarter was driven by the growth in credit card receivables and the containment of past due credit card receivables in the two consecutive quarters," the BSP said in a report.

Banks' net city losses were the past due credit card receivables were declining was the growing popularity and convenience of the banks' debit cards, thereby by credit card issuers.

The P15.7 billion in past due credit card receivables accounted for 8.5 percent of the banking system's total non-performing loans.

Universal and commercial banks' subsidiaries of universal and commercial banks followed with a 24.4 percent share and thrift banks not affiliated with any bigger bank held the balance of 5.4 percent.

In the meantime, nonperforming auto loans in the second quarter rose to P3.3 billion from P2.9 billion a quarter ago. This quarter's end auto loan ratio to total auto loans of 3.66 percent was a slight improvement from year-ago's 3.7 percent.

Auto loans extended by universal/commercial banks and thrift banks reached P65.2 billion as of end-June 2006. The exposure was 4.6 percent higher than the P62.3 billion in the previous quarter.

BCDA dared to fulfill terms of '99 Poro deal

THE JOINT VENTURE PARTNER OF THE Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) has challenged the agency to fulfill its obligations under a 1999 agreement in order to resume the stalled development of the Poro Point seaport and industrial zone in San Fernando, La Union.

In a statement, Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) said the BCDA had failed over the past six years to deliver some 80 hectares of land that were supposed to be turned over to the joint venture and transformed into an economic hub for Northern Luzon.

PPIC president Jay Abaya, in the statement, stated: BCDA president Nardoe Abaya "is hiding like Sisi from the public when he accused the joint venture of failing to develop Poro Point."

"Sa mula't mula (January 2001), we have demanded the full turnover of the said parcels of land as part of BCDA's commitment under the 1999 agreement," Abaya pointed out.

"What is there to develop when thousand shanty has not turned over the land BCDA committed to make the 1999 deal," Abaya said.

He stated there is "none now the entire land today as agreed, and development shall now there's thing turnover-ownership."

Exports . . . From page B1

ally the weakest. The slowdown was a natural phenomenon. The industry is still very bullish and it expects single-growth rate for the whole year to be driven by wireless applications, consumer electronics, and automotive electronics. "I am optimistic that exports in its entirety will reach the country's second biggest export source during the decade, earning $27.7 billion or 21 percent higher than the $220.49 million recorded a year ago.

The PSEO attributed the growth in this sector to stronger demand for women's wear, products, plastics, furniture, accessories and textiles articles of cotton, and knitted or crocheted wears.

Other top exports in July were petroleum products, $264.09 million; cathodes and sections of cathodes of refined copper, $99.41 million; woodworks and furniture, $76.75 million; textiles articles of cotton, $68.96 million; telecommunications equipment, $68.42 million; motor vehicles, aircraft and ships, $61.58 million; gold, $42.07 million; metal components, $38.17 million; and coconut oil, $36.15 million.

The United States remained the country's top export market, accounting the biggest share of Philippine exports at $556.28 million. This was 26.4 percent higher than year-ago level.

Shipments to the United States accounted for 18.2 percent of the Philippines' total export receipts for the month.

Japan came in second with $243.92 million, up 2.5 percent higher from year ago level.

Other top foreign markets for Philippine products were the following: Hong Kong, $181.44 million; Netherlands, $151.20 million; China, $151.79 million; Singapore, $279.05 million; Malaysia, $225.46 million; Taiwan, $200.85 million; Germany, $161.51 million; and Thailand, $111.72 million.

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BUSINESS

Gov't to settle ₱3.3-B GSIS debt

Fund to be drawn from supplemental budget

ARROYO

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS SET aside ₱3.3 billion from the proposed 2006 ₱46-billion supplemental budget for the year to settle unpaid contributions of the agencies to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

Between July 1997 and December 1998, some government agencies were not able to remit to the GSIS their share in the premium contributions of their employees as required by law.

At a result of the government employees' failure to remit their shares to the pension fund, the contributions of 516,125 state employees were deemed unaffected.

Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said the decision that the government at that time were having budget problems, which led to the deficiency in contributions to the GSIS.

The appropriation of ₱3.3 billion to settle its liabilities to the GSIS reflected the national government's intent to remedy the problem, Andaya said.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, who sponsored the bill on the supplemental budget, said in a session hearing late Monday that the deficient contributions result in reduced pension benefits of retired government employees.

The ₱3.3 billion to be paid to the GSIS will then be used to adjust the benefits of the retired members, Drilon said.

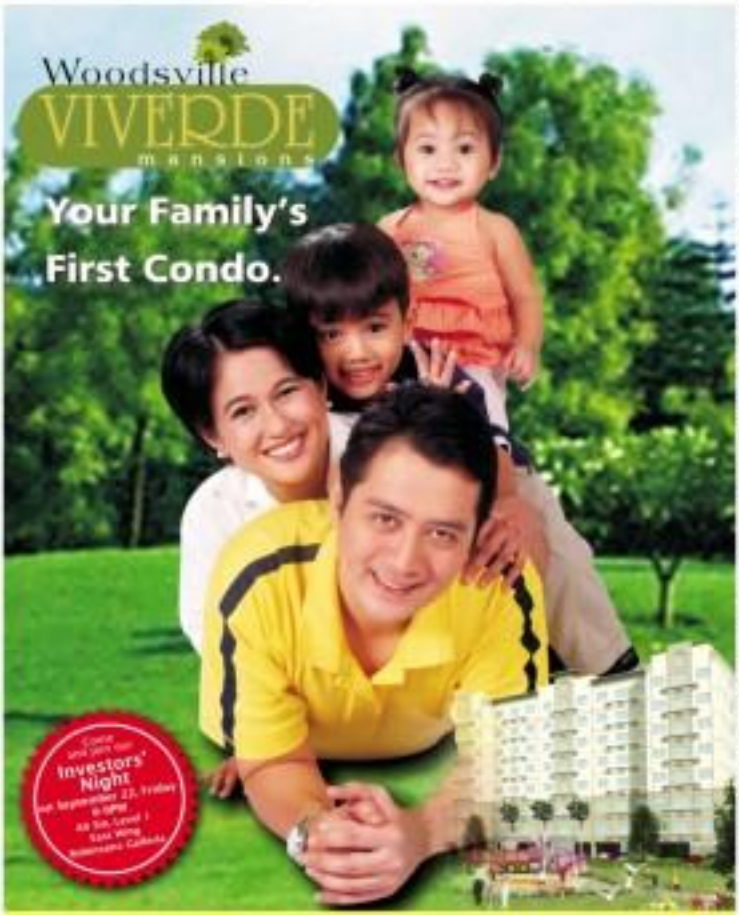
GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said that part of the ₱3.3-billion settlement would go to the reform programs being undertaken by the pension fund.

The GSIS had been running after delinquent government agencies to beef up its premium fund and update its database.

The Arroyo administration's economic officials have urged Congress to approve a supplemental budget, saying the failure of legislators to pass the proposed ₱1,053.6-billion national budget for 2006 will hinder the implementation of several programs.

The failure to pass the proposed 2006 national budget forced the government to put on hold some of the recasted budget of 2005, which stands at ₱962 billion. Finance and budget officials said the 2005 budget would not be enough to meet rising expenditure requirements.

The House has approved the ₱46.9-billion supplemental budget. The bill is now being deliberated in the Senate.



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ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION
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More RP goods will make it to Japan, says DA

By Christine A. Gaylican

MORE PHILIPPINE AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS will soon find their way to Japan due largely to the recently signed Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), according to an official of the Department of Agriculture.

Fresh mushroom and mushroom products, poultry meat, fresh and dried pineapples, mangoes, prepared and preserved pork meat, pellets and shipped wine, processed and smoked tuna, ice cream, Cavendish and small bananas and other tropical vegetables may be granted lower, or even zero per cent, tariff upon entry to Japan beginning next year until 2010, Agriculture Undersecretary Reglindo Barroso said in a press briefing yesterday.

"We have made sure that the Japan would open new markets for Philippine products ... we have a lot of potential," according to Barroso, who is the government's lead negotiator for agriculture.

However, Barroso said that rice and corn, considered to be sensitive agriculture products in Japan, would still be excluded from the tariff cut.

He said that the Japan has provided specific quotas for Philippine products but not reach to lower and zero percent tariffs.

WB exec urges RP to sustain reform momentum

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES MUST GRAB THE OPPORtunity to stamp out corruption and maintain its reform momentum if it hopes to reach a role as Asia's economic locust, a visiting World Bank executive said yesterday.

And leaving out of the most "open" economies in the region, WB managing director Ana Ann Dubosh said that the government is now "feeble" for good economic policies to flourish in this country.

"The strength of regional competition compels us also to feel that this country cannot afford to ignore. Time wasted, reforms that lapse, confused messages of leadership priorities ... [will result in], not only lost income and market share, but in lost opportunity for millions of Filipinos," he said in a forum organized by the Makati Business Club and the Asian Institute of Management.

"The message we have from our neighbors in Asia seems to be loud and clear: Do not stop, do not even slow down; deepen economic reforms for a better business environment, for rapid poverty reduction," he said.

Sounding the same problem that the country has been facing for the past 10 to 20 years, he said an urgent matter, given rapid development in Asia, Dubosh stressed.

He said that the WB is committed to help the country achieve its dream of becoming one of Asia's major economies by supporting a variety of good governance reforms.

As part of its global strategy against corruption, the WB has started blacklisting companies found to be involved in corruption. There are now 300 companies on the list, some of which operate in the Philippines, Dubosh said.

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

Phones for flaunting

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

Ring tones by Brian Eno, 3D Snake, pink phones and other things that inspire Nokia lust

VIETNAM'S HO CHI MINH City, with its sea of motorcycles, rich history and bounty of art, was the chosen venue for the regional launch of Nokia's latest mobile phones recently. But the launch was more than just that—it was a celebration of the marriage of style and technology, fun and functionality, design and desire.

The ultra-sleek Nokia 8800 Sirocco, his first, a follow-up to the Nokia 8800 which was the first Nokia phone to have a stainless steel and mineral glass body, was unveiled in the exclusive area of the Park Hyatt Saigon. Models in little black dresses walked onstage, with Nokia's newest premium phone gleaming in their hands.

PHONES A3

Great life.
No hassles.

It is often said that in life, you must take the good with the bad. But what if you didn't have to? What if you could do whatever you wanted without any consequences? Imagine throwing a huge party without your parents checking up. Or acing all your exams without having to study!

Match the left columns with the right to see how else you can have it all!

Romantic movie → No braces
Awesome superheroes → No bedtime stories
Wild night → No favors asked
Sinful dessert → No sit-ups
Late nights → No regrets
Nice dress → No wrapp rights
Date → No I told you so's
Weekend abs → No guilt
Great advice → No small talk
Loyal friend → No cheesy lines
Great lesser → No garbage

Great game, no sweat. Just like Coke Light. Great taste. No calories. Have it all!

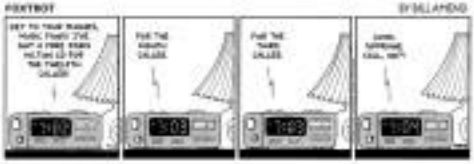
great taste. no calories.

So why not boys' night out with no curfew?

Coca-Cola light

Have it ALL

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND



A. LEVIN BY JOE ADDEO

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BARDY BY PH JUNIOR

NUTTS BY MATT MCDONNELL

LOVEANDOTE BY ELIZABETH CHOMKO

ATOMO AND WEBSY BY LISA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN MANLEWICZ

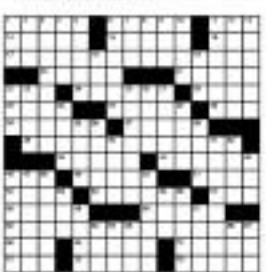
RIKO MACHINE BY MARK KREIDLER

HUMORODOMOS BY JOHNS TIGAS

TULOOK BY PAPI LANDTUTUPH PHILIPPINES

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

1								2
			1		5			
7	6			9			3	4
	2						9	
			1		3		6	
	8						7	
2	3			4			6	5
			6		9			
8								9

Difficulty Level ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	7	1	3	5	8	6	9	2
6	8	5	2	7	9	1	4	3
2	3	9	6	4	1	7	8	5
7	1	4	8	9	2	3	5	6
5	2	3	9	1	4	8	6	7
8	9	6	7	3	5	2	1	4
3	5	7	4	8	6	9	2	1
9	4	8	1	2	3	5	7	6
1	6	2	5	9	7	4	3	8

Phones for flaunting

From page B1

Alex Lambeck, vice president for sales and market operations, Mobile Phones Business Group, said, "The Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition adds to Nokia's heritage of modern design pieces. It is inspired by sensuality, beauty and the purity of metal."

The Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition, named after the powerful wind that sweeps across the Sahara desert, boasts of stainless steel polished surfaces and a scratch-resistant glass display window. This phone, which comes in light and dark variants, has a thumb cut to ensure the smooth and easy use of its slider mechanism.

"The unit personality shaped thumb cut that fits your hand so ergonomically is an expression of Nokia's aim to humanize technology," explained Nokia's communications team.

The Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition is equipped with a two-megapixel camera and recorded memory like all Nokia multimedia created by avant-garde musical pioneer Brian Eno, the "father of ambient music."

Members of the media from all over Asia watched the commercial of the Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition over a cluster of French and Smoked Salmon, feta Cartier, Sour Cream and Saffron, Truffle Harvest Mushroom Cappuccino and Parmesan Allumettes, Whole Roasted Beef Tenderloin with Baked Potato Rolls and Steamed Black Garoupa with Kalamata Olive Mousseux.

Gadget high

But the night's gadget high was just starting. After dinner, guests were led to another room, this time laden with a bodies of scrumptious desserts—chocolate-dipped strawberries, rich brownies, swirly pies, soufflés, even a chocolate fountain that would dim, spread of sweets that Nokia's new Glamour Collection was revealed.

The Siti Duncea Collection may have lured you with its white-brown color and floral motifs, but the second collection-of-the-moon thrills and entertains.

Dancing nearest all with modern communication, the new Glamour Collection of five pretty phones with high-technology edge. The tribal designs are a sure route on among today's forward-thinking fashion tribes.

The Nokia 7373 fits the palm perfectly. With its sexy muted design and ethnic pattern, this phone can be flaunted as a stylish fashion accessory.

But the 7373 is armed with more than just looks. It comes with a two-megapixel camera, a music and video player with wide screen capabilities, a comprehensive calendar, a to-do-list, pretty pouch and phone jewelry. And it comes in three colors: Powder Pink, Bronze Black and Black Chrome.

Both guys and girls will love the Nokia 7360. Elegant and compact, the Nokia 7360 is equipped with a stereo FM radio, a camera, MMS messaging, MP3 ring tones and Nokia Xpress Audio Messaging. The Nokia 7360is available in two colors: Powder Pink and Chrome Black.

But the star of the new Nokia Glamour collection is undoubtedly the Nokia 7390. Nokia's first camera phone, the 7390 is an elegant fold-phone that comes loaded with features—including a three-megapixel camera and MCU60 high-speed connectivity. The Nokia 7390 is available in Powder Pink and Bronze Black. This model will undoubtedly awaken Nokia lust in many people.

"Color is a very cultural thing. Pink at the moment is quite universal. I don't see pink as just feminine," noted Jaakko Kunke, director of Nokia Mobile Phones Design.

When asked if he'd ever see a pink phone, he said: "I don't have a problem with that. I have a lot of pink shirts as well."

In many ways, the phones that Nokia launched were like Ms. Chi With City —arousing wide emotions and aversion experience, rich in visuals and in art, vintage, and modern, a winner for honorees, a total experience for the senses.

The Nokia 8800 Sirocco Edition will be available next week with the Glamour Collection will be on market by the end of October.

E-mail the author at lpeace@inquirer.com.ph

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Snap happy

Fashion photographer Van Hai puts Nokia 7380's 3-megapixel camera to the test on the streets of Ho Chi Minh City

THERE IS SOMETHING amazing about this phone," fashion photographer Van Hai said as he told the press about his experience with the Nokia 7390.

A Saigon native who is based in Hong Kong and has a studio in Canada, Van Hai has shot big Asian stars like Andy Lau, Aha Yu, Sandy Lam and Maggie Cheung. His work can be seen in magazines all over Hong Kong and Canada.

VAN HAI

He spent an afternoon with the Nokia 7390, taking photos around Ho Chi Minh City. He raved about the Nokia 7390's camera features, including auto focus and white balance—and about the convenience it brings.

Post your own version of Van Hai's photographs, all taken with the Nokia 7390.

Pam Pastor

HO CHI MINH is rich in old and architecture... different angles. Nokia's 7390.

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Pisikon ang plema kapa lamats.

"WWW Santo Tomas," cheered the supporters of the winning squad.

BRING IT ON, AGAIN!

Text by Ruth L. Navarro
Photos by Rudel Ramos

For the fifth consecutive year, the UST Salinggawi Dance Troupe has won the UAAP cheerleading competition

ONE MIGHTY ROAR echoed deep in the jungles of Araneta last Sunday as the UST Salinggawi Dance Troupe won the UAAP cheerleading competition for five years in a row.

"It was only this summer when the school finally decided it wanted us to join this year's competition," said UST choreographer Kyra Silva in Filipino.

It was a good thing that the squad did, because they renewed their fans with another riveting, solid performance as they executed their pyramids and basket stunts with the greatest of ease, such that you started to believe they could do those stunts with their eyes closed.

They even showed off their playful side when they leaned the crowd with a little can-can dance. The team finished its routine with the signature Vitruvian pyramid, which raised the people at the top.

UST got an average score of 94.06 points. It was enough to secure the squad the championship, but coming in second place was the Ateneo University Cheering Squad with a score of 93.2 points.

"When we found that UP came in third, we knew that it was between us and FEU," said Silva.

Two years ago, FEU performed with old uniforms and big hearts. They placed second that year, but their testimony has been undeniable since then. Now, there's a nervous hush in the crowd of yellows and maroons whenever this team performs.

It was also fun to watch how the Tamaraw fans synchronized their own choreographed moves with their cheerleaders. Their

[illegible]

THE INNOVATIVE UP Pep Squad fights for prize.

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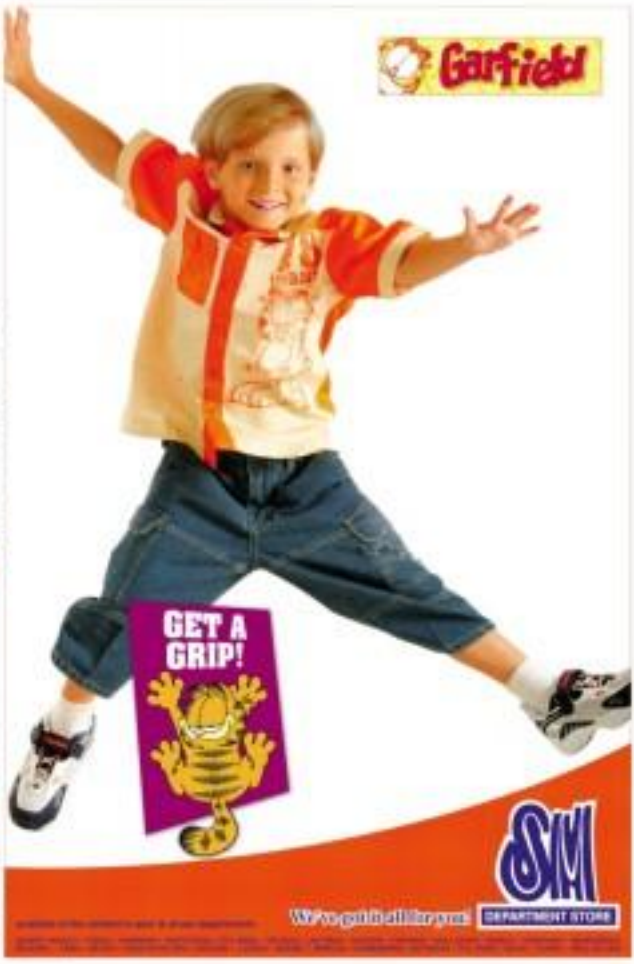

LET THESE funky sneakers and weird characters add color to your world.

The ordinary key chain gets a whimsical reinvention

Fun sneaks and fun friends

By Zyx Cuyos, AIM Contributor

SOME MAY DESCRIBE THEM TO BE bubbly, cute, amusingly grotesque, or weird and classy. They take on different shapes, and personalities, a hodgepodge of colors, symbols and appendages! It's hard to give such a definite category and why should you anyway? We can call them solid, flat figurines of the creator's imagination! Here is, each Oddball Friend is unique, quirky and made with much attention and love. And there's one that's bound to call out to you to take it home.

Tying the stories of these 30 destined handcrafted dolls key chains, meet the Oddball Friends are off to travel the world. "Some of them have migrated to the States" the cute lady a while. With the overwhelming response from matured customers, we're sure that they're more likely to cool spirit-ed to parts of the globe.

Oddball Friends go to cool at P250.

Drawings in the Shoes

To drench the tired feet from the stress of the real world, Alan and Ajed decided to have the ordinary sneakers and paint sneakers to just a day of painting pictures of their sneakers on the feet. Should shared to place their colors. Thus, Drawings in the Shoes came to be.

For P500, they can really add life to your ordinary canvas! Cheeks. And in a society where mass-produced footwear floods ridiculous and fakes ground, shoehorned or subversive) are quirky, monstrous sneakers are the answer to a person's unique individuality.

"You can all in what you like and we'll put it together in our own rendition," says Alan. The making of the sneakers does become an artistic collaboration between Ajed and the customer. You can make requests, give your color specifications, but keep in mind though they don't do normal "painting service." "We show of like making our art more of yours."

With the fun, and clever designs these two duos are, you can be sure assured that any sneaker they make has 100 percent satisfaction guaranteed.

Then...

What makes you a rock star?

Sonny Antonette Peña with Yan Yuzon of Pupil

"My life rocks because I have the chance to sing my favorite songs in front of a live audience, live on a concert or a pop-up[illegible] and meet cool people like Ely Buendia and Yan Yuzon of Pupil!"

Mark Alcantara

"I love rock and roll! And pop! And hip-hop! I had even a variety! Gimme those gold-en oldies, teen choice music—this is why I'm [illegible]!"

Jean Navera with Hale's lead singer, Champ

"My life is so because I love [illegible] and friends who love me and accept me for who I am. Plus, I've met my fave band in the world, Hale, got to know them personally and even became their friend! Champee is just great!"

Winners can claim their prizes by calling Pilar Cinderella Carvalen of Streamworks at 751 1805 06.

Front page D1

fancy participation was emphasized as they solidly waved their yellow bandana, which stood out amid the sea of green shirts.

Meanwhile, UST's orchestral DP Big Band showed they would be powerful and deadly as the game time as they performed Japanese fan dance. There was a good height to their signature inverted pyramids, and the music were completed neatly.

However, the title continued to elude the UP Pep. They only managed to place third, with a score of 91.7 percent.

What was great about this year's competition was that there were no sponsors asking the teams to incorporate their products into the cheers. So the audience was spared the sight of silly dancing cops in the middle of the routine and, thankfully, no Goodluck cheers were made. But it is accommodate a product.

"One of the criteria for judging was the uniqueness of the routine, so it was very important that we stood out because we knew that our moves would be compared to other teams," said Silva.

Being unique, however, did not necessarily mean daring moves.

"We always considered the safety of the stunts first. I didn't want to sense the degree of difficulty for the dancers if they weren't comfortable with the move and if it was too risky," said Silva.

Becoming consistent champions have its perks, too, as the UST squad now has an easier time finding companies to sponsor their tournaments.

"U.A. Gear had an agreement with us in 2005 that they will be with us forever," said Silva.

Now it's only a matter of asking whether the group will still join the competition next year.

"When we join contest, we will continue to improve. We want to be at our best during ballrimes. I don't want our level of performance to go down. We have to show the crowd why we are the champions," said Silva.

ENTERTAINMEN

Libis Buenaventura

OPENING TODAY

Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?

Narrated by Morgan Freeman
Directed by Luc Jacquet

The annual "penguin pilgrimage" from the Southern ocean to the breeding ground in antarctica is chronicled in this French film, which won the 2005 Oscar for Best Documentary. Bruce Pittenbrook of the Houston Chronicle describes the penguin's perilous trek as a "harrowing but monotonous ritual." Richard Schickel of Time calls it "a gentle film about somewhat dim, huge rib-cracked birds as by nesting instinct dictates they..." Steve Schneider of Orlando Weekly counters: "They're a miraculous species... like humans, only cooler."

Birdbrain K

Main Features Horror, Terry Moreno, Cindy Peng-Bravo, Jojo Sinjar

Directed by Jovan Tan

Boxer-gal-turned-reality show millionaire is lauded to buy senior members in a "movie-deserted cupcake-ish" way, much like Steven' view. The script, by filmmaker Kirk Hirth, follows an "ordinary girl who marries abroad for-setting a princess." Jovanna plays a jealous who climbs the corporate ladder and dreams of remaining her kandy boss (Moreno). Daydreamers insist this is "not a run-of-the-mill romantic-comedy" and boasts "impressive special effects."

Scoop

Main Woody Allen, Hugh Jackman, Scarlett Johansson, Ian McShane

Directed by Woody Allen

An American journalism student (Johansson) is embroiled in a murder mystery (a cocaine and chastity) as a "scoop" of a lifetime when a ghost (McShane) reveals her and/or steals the identity of a serial killer/aces. Rifle of Premiere magazine thinks it's "amusing but not entirely unwatchable... a dull, whisper into silent point." Philip Wuntch of Dallas Morning News commends it: "It makes you smile ... not such a minor

THE TOP 4 of "Philippine Idol" (females), from left: Armanie Lourdes "Armie" Cruz; Jellica Marie "Jell" Manes; Cherry Ann "Apple" Chiu; and Paula Patricia "Pow" Chavez, whom Ryan Cayabyab is betting on. With host Ryan Agoncillo in Miaoneon "Miss" Marcelo, who got a standing

Mr. C's fearless forecast

By Philmar B. Cruz

HOW WILL WIN THE 'PHILIPPINE Idol' title. She has charm, a magnetic personality and a natural singing voice. Everyone loves her."

Mentor composer Ryan Cayabyab, one of three "Idol" judges, made this fearless forecast on Sunday after the second elimination night of the talent search program on ABC 5.

The top four female contestants—chosen through SMS votings—were announced that night at the Cinema 3 of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Around 10 min to the finale are Paula Patricia "Pow" Chavez, Armanie Lourdes "Armie" Cruz, Jellica Marie "Jell" Manes and Cherry Ann "Apple" Chiu.

"Pow is different. She remembers the melisma, just by her smile," Cayabyab, Mr. C to colleagues, told Inquirer Entertainment.

Kris Aquino's bet

Actress-TV host Kris Aquino earlier said she wanted to read for Pow to win. But she ruled 86 votes last weekend for the 23-year-old contestant.

Pow admitted she was finding it tough being a crowd favorite. "I'm feeling the pressure. I can only promise the public that I'd give my best in every performance," she said.

"I still pray for continued support. My family is really campaigning for me."

On Saturday night, Mr. C predicted that contenders Mansion "Mon" Marcelo and Rivalyn "Trash" Pangan would land in the Top 4. "But after last week, I'm not surprised with everybody's results," he said. "But it's okay, the way it is. I respect the votes of the people."

Last week's results caught Cayabyab and fellow judges Pilita Corrales and Francis Magalona by surprise. Three of the four contestants they recommended—Rainie Grupo, Jaclyn Fernandez and Giancarlo Magdangal—fell short of the Top 4.

The top slots in the finals were given to Miguel Members, Raymund Sales, Andrew

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OPENING TODAY

When happens if the runaway bus in "Speed" is rammed into a business'es bag? In this slugfest, a bus man (Hubbard) is in protect with Beijing Cocktail, a Chinese poison that will kill him in an hours. In previous film director, he must "stop to conserve another or slow down the train and hopefully wasn't encouraged on encouraged on encouragement." Another Chinese of Victory (Under this "drown-and-slide" architecture ... never developed, much environment." Chinese Gentlemen of Enterprise, serial Weekly says it's "crooked up" more

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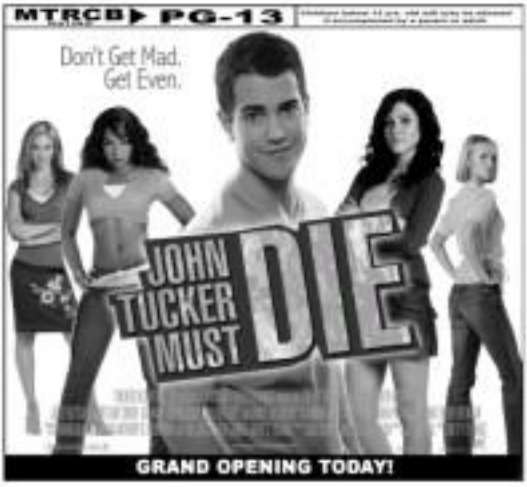

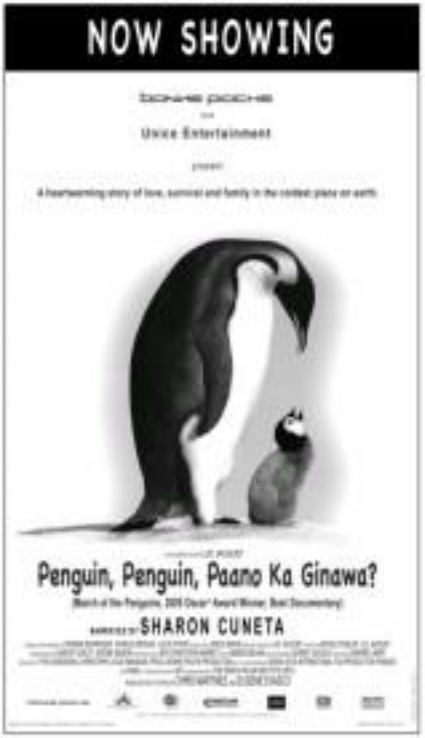

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1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE + TRX	6 CRANK
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA	7 BINIBINING K
3 MONSTER HOUSE	8 THE WICKER MAN
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	9 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 SCOOP	10 RESERVE

ERMITA

1 CRANK	
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE	6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 MONSTER HOUSE	8 SCOOP
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE	7 BINIBINING K YOU ARE THE ONE

METRO EAST

1 CRANK	6 MONSTER HOUSE
2 THE WICKER MAN	6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE	7 SCOOP
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE	8 BINIBINING K

NOVALICHES

1 CRANK	4 THE WICKER MAN
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	8 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE	

CITISQUARE MALABON

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNITY
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

1 CRANK
2 SCOOP
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 BINIBINING K

STA. ROSA

1 STAY ALIVE
2 BINIBINING K
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

LIPA

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MIAMI VICE
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 BINIBINING K

DASMARINAS

1 STAY ALIVE
2 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
3 BINIBINING K
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

ANGELES

1 CRANK
2 MORTUARY
3 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 BINIBINING K

IMUS

1 CRANK
2 STAY ALIVE
3 YOU'RE THE ONE
4 BINIBINING K

STARMILLS

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 CRANK
3 MONSTER HOUSE
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
5 BINIBINING K
6 ETERNITY

BACOLOD

1 MIAMI VICE
2 MORTUARY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 KISS KISS BANG BANG
5 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
6 STAY ALIVE

ILOILO

1 SNAKES ON A PLANE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STAY ALIVE

PLAM painter Rita, "American Idol" finalist, watched on Saturday and performed on Sunday

Mr. C's fearless forecast

From page 11

Vrahas and Jon Kori Nieva.

"That's why I guess Idiots a standing ova- tion last night," Mr. C said on Sunday. "I was sure Filipinos would not vote for her. It was the least I could do for her."

Wild card

Only 12 contes- tants—six males and six females—will compete in the final round. The remain- ing four slots will be determined during the wild-card round on Saturday.

Competing for the four slots are Ri- mahl Macrohon, Yeng Ulanday, Ira Macatangay, Stephanie Lazaro and Thomas "Inoy" Ideliton; and (male) Gino Magtalong, Jasper Onyx Galela, Joseph Aztor and Kenneth Dingle.

"I don't think peo- ple will just sit around now and do nothing for their fa- vorites," said Mr. C. "Voting is, this time, forbidden to us."

Opening Today

JESSE Hessalin and Arielle Kebbel

From page 11

where fantasies unfold and proudly sing(s)."

Joe Tucker Must Die

Stars: Jesse Metcalfe, Arielle Kebbel, Ashanti, Scott Patch

Directed by: Betty Thomas

Three girls from Alberta High school cliques exact revenge on the com- pu- jock (Metcalfe) who has been dating all of them. Bob- bymaxx of Los Angeles Daily News says, "Given air-head comedy doesn't get much dri- er or limier, than [this]." Kyle Smith of New York Post de- fens: "In many or a quart of cheesy ... a slumber-party clas- sic ... [with a] fun- ny- ness." Angela Reason of Chicago Tribune notes, "Despite its shortcomings, [it] isn't a terrible movie. It's cute and sweetly funny in its retooling."

Black eye . . .

Front page 8a

ing any of the chores.

"I don't have time. My son starts school this week and I have to take him every day," she said in an interview, about her 2-year old son Jettan with actor husband Matthew Broderick. Reuters

Sparrow's success

LOS ANGELES—Johnny Depp has a great new lesson to teach his gold-tooth pirate as each Sparrow "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" becomes the third film ever to nail past the billion dollar mark in worldwide box office booty.

Industry tracker Box Office Mojo reported that, as of Sunday, "Pirates" had topped a billion dollars in ticket sales by several million, and was closing the gap with "The Lord of the Rings," which posted pics clip of $1.119 billion during its theatrical run. "Titanic" is the top grossing film of all time, pulling in $1.845 billion. AFP

Brad humbled

TORONTO—Brad Pitt, one of Hollywood's biggest stars, says he enjoyed taking a smaller role as part of an ensemble in the new film "Babel," and was humbled by the work of several unpaid professional actors in the film.

Directed by "21 Grams" director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, "Babel" made its North American debut at the Toronto International Film Festival this weekend.

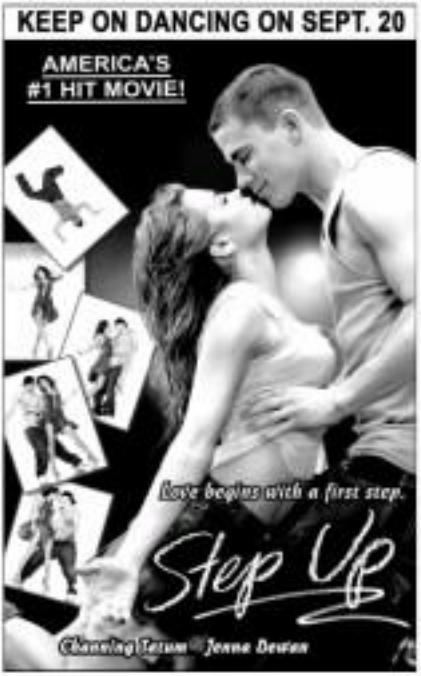
"Being a part of an ensemble is always more fun, you don't have to carry the film," Pitt told reporters on Sunday, one day after throwing him into a frenzy at the red-carpet screening of the movie. Reuters

Box office spell

LOS ANGELES—"The Covenant," a tale of supernatural teens trying to destroy each other in an elite boarding school, succeeded in the cup of the weekend box office with a modest take of $9 million according to studio estimates. AP

Klouble Echa

DGTV Two Flavas Mall shoppers were stunned recently when they found Jordin Sparks by the Hershey's Kisses stand, available for photo-ops. It was part of the chocolate brand's "Klouble with the Stars" promo series. Three bags of Kisses equals one snapshot. Plus maybe a kiss for the intrepid.



Black eye for female Pea

PEAS of Black Eyed Pea

SARAH Jessica Parker

RUSHES

NEW YORK—FERGIE, THE PETITE voice of the Black Eyed Peas, says she had to dig deep inside herself to kick her crystal meth addiction.

"It was the hardest battle I ever had to break up with," Fergie—Stacy "Fergie" Ferguson told Time magazine in an interview for the issue that hits newsstands this Monday.

"It's the drug that's so alluring," said Fergie, who has released her first solo album, "The Dutchess." "But it's only you start doing it to the fact that it's not you anymore. It's not your personality. It's not your soul. It's not your spirit. It's not your heart. It's not your mind. It's not your body. It's not your life."

Fergie, 30, who has been married to actor Josh Duhamel since January 2009, said she has been clean for more than a year.

Family before fashion

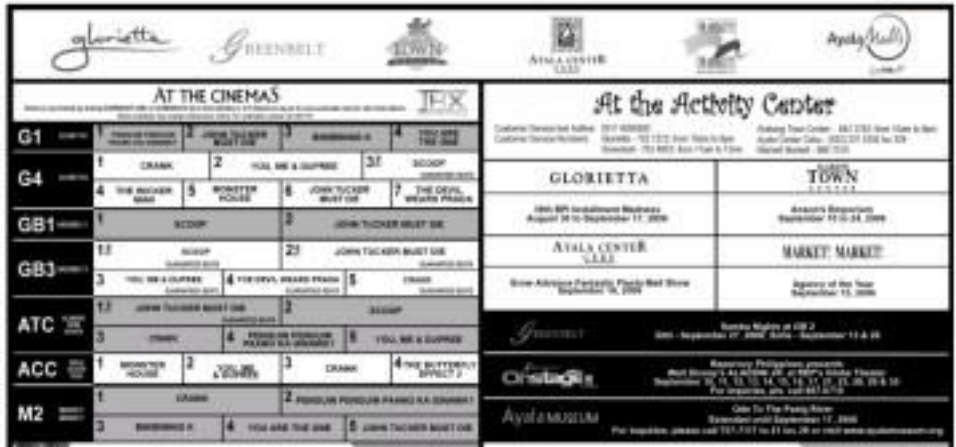
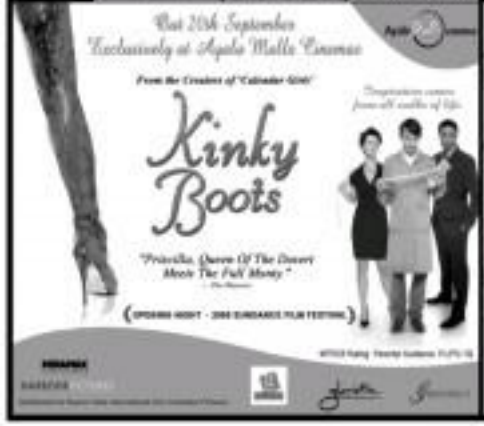
NEW YORK—Actress Sarah Jessica Parker, voted the prettiest girl for style and single mommy in New York because of the hit TV series "Sex and the City," says there's something in her life that takes higher priority than the latest designer fashion—her family.

Parker, 41, stated in international standoffs as newspaper columnist Carrie Bradshaw in the hit cable show.

But while New York is abuzz over its second fashion week Sept. 6-13, Parker isn't among

BACK TO

KID FIT

'Meerkat Manor'

The world's favorite masked mammals return to Animal Planet in an all-new season of "Meerkat Manor," starting tonight at 10 and 11. Wednesdays thereafter, encore Saturdays, 6 p.m.